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NO MORE PLAYING THE FIELD?

CFL'S BRAD SMITH IS LOOKING TO SCORE ON BACHELOR CANADA PAGE 15

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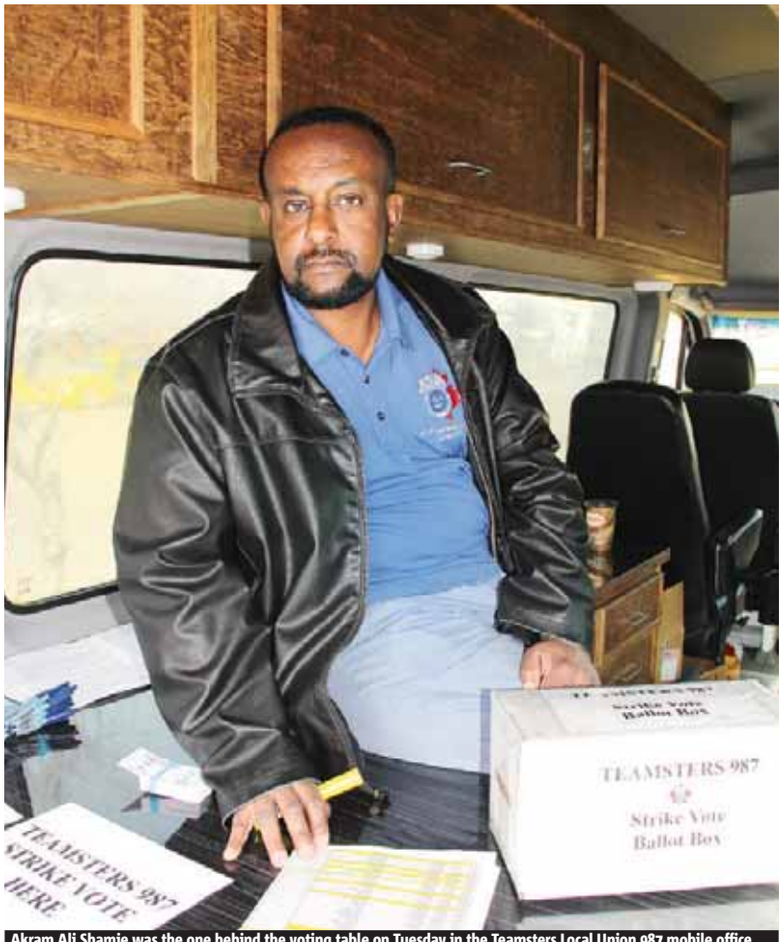

Akram Ali Shamie was the one behind the voting table on Tuesday in the Teamsters Local Union 987 mobile office, a van parked in the lot across the street from the Greyhound bus depot downtown. Drivers can also vote at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald or the Delta Edmonton South. HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

City cabbie strike looms

Taxi stand. Union wants first contract so members can hold employer accountable: Balraj Manhas

HEATHER MCINTYRE
heather.mcintyre@metronews.ca

Those hailing a taxi next week could be out of luck, as drivers from four Edmonton cab companies may strike as soon as Monday.

A total of 800 drivers representing Yellow Cab, Barrel Taxi, Checker and Prestige Cabs began a strike vote on Monday that will continue through Wednesday.

After six meetings since November, following the creation of Teamsters Local Union 987, negotiations stalled with the Edmonton Taxi Service Group for a first collective bargaining agreement.

"What we are trying is to bring them back to the table," Balraj Manhas, president of the United Cab Drivers Association of Edmonton, said on Tuesday. "We're trying to avoid the strike."

Concerns include unfair insurance surcharges, high weekly stand rent, monthly rent for debit-card machines and more, he added.

A mediator appointed by the Alberta Labour Relations Board was unable to help the two parties reach a settlement.

"He indicated everyone was too far apart and so … they can have a strike vote," said Phil Strong, president of the Edmonton Taxi Service Group, adding he doesn't think most drivers want to strike.

After votes are tallied on Thursday, a 72-hour strike notice could be filed.

Manhas said 200 drivers voted on Monday night, and there was a steady stream on Tuesday.

"I hope they continue to come in big numbers," he said.

Follow Heather McIntyre on Twitter @MacsTheWord

Mogul on the move

Conrad Black, due to be released from a U.S. prison on Friday, has been granted a temporary resident permit in Canada on the grounds that he poses no threat to citizens of this country PAGE 8

Police warn of Whyte Avenue assaults

With seven violent incidents reported since mid-March, women are being advised to exercise extreme caution when walking alone PAGE 3

Who is that masked man?

The movies that shaped the Avengers actors into stars PAGE 16

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Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrates International Youth Week by recognizing the important and generous contributions of Edmonton & Area teens and their schools who have dedicated their time, talent and attention to mentoring children in their communities. You have made a BIG difference! For more information about Teen Mentoring, please call 780.424.8181. *Please note that every effort has been made to ensure all names are included and are accurate. If there are errors or omissions, please contact our offices in order that our records may be corrected.*

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Fatal crash

Call for twinning of 'Highway from Hell'

Brenda Hollowell has always called Highway 63 the "Highway from Hell" but didn't realize just how deadly the Alberta road was until her son and only granddaughter were killed with five others on its blacktop.

Now she's pushing for the Alberta government to quickly finish twinning the highway to prevent more people from dying.

"It seems like these people in higher places just don't get it," Hollowell said from her home in Niagara Falls, Ont. "I don't think it gets any worse than this collision."

Her son Daniel Sennett and his daughter, 11-year-old Faith, of Airdrie, Alta., were travelling to Fort McMurray last Friday to help his retiring father pack for a move back to Ontario.

Sennett, a 34-year-old welder, was driving his pickup truck. His daughter and an adult friend were with him.

RCMP said the truck had pulled out to pass a vehicle when it smashed head on into another pickup carrying six people.

Sennett and the friend were killed. Passing motorists managed to pull Hollowell's granddaughter from the fiery wreckage but she died in hospital.

Four people died in the other truck — a pastor, his wife, one of their two young sons and a pregnant woman.

The pastor's three-year-old son and the pregnant woman's husband survived.

Hollowell said she would like to personally thank the strangers who tried to save Faith. She also sends her sympathies to the families of the others who died.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EPS Det. Rob Chan of Southeast Division says the police need the public's help in getting a lead on a string of recent assaults. LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

String of assaults may be connected

Vigilance. Police are urging caution when walking alone

LUCY HAINES
edmonton@metronews.ca

Edmonton women walking alone late at night near Whyte Avenue can't rest easy yet, say police.

With seven assaults in the area, each escalating in violence, police acknowledge they're no closer to finding a suspect than they were when the first assault occurred in mid-March.

"The busy Whyte Ave. area, late at night, when bars get out — surely someone has seen something," said Det. Rob Chan of EPS Southeast Division, who continues to investigate the incidents with detectives from Southwest Division.

"We are extremely concerned and want the public's assistance in providing any information they can to assist the on-going investigation."

Chan said that in all cases, the suspect has attacked the woman from behind while she walked alone on a city sidewalk.

The attacks have become more aggressive and violent over the weeks, Chan said, going from the woman being pushed to the ground in the earliest assaults, to an April assault where the woman was grabbed and choked before fighting off her attacker.

The women, between the ages of 20 and 60 are traumatized, but physically all right, added Chan.

"All of these women did the right thing," he said. "They all screamed and fought back, which made the assailant run away."

Without a sketch or public tips to EPS or Crime Stoppers, Chan says the case remains a difficult one to crack.

"We need to solve this quickly," he said.

"In the meantime, we want to remind all women to be aware of their surroundings at all times, and report suspicious activity to police immediately."

Details of attacks

- Seven separate incidents of women being attacked from behind late at night have occurred between March 18 and April 29.
- All attacks have occurred roughly in the area of Whyte (82 Ave.)—most around 107 Street
- Description of attacker varies — from 5'4" to 6" tall, weighing about 150 pounds and wearing jeans and a hoodie.

1

NEWS

On the web

Rethinking the rules on exotic animals

After last year's chilling slaughter of more than two dozen tigers, leopards and lions by a suicidal owner of an exotic animal farm in Ohio, lawmakers are rethinking the rules. In some states, it's easier to buy a tiger or lion from a breeder than it is to adopt a kitten from a shelter. Get the full story and video at metronews.ca

Mobile news

The instructions are simple: Hold up an old photo in front of the place where it was originally shot, take a picture of the picture, then write a dedication about what the photo means to you. Scan the code for more on the web phenomenon.

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$10 cleanings. NAIT wants dental patients

NAIT's dental school. NAIT HANDOUT

Students at NAIT's Dental Assisting program are looking for 500 patients willing to go under the fluoride for just $10.

The school is offering the discounted teeth cleaning and fluoride treatment through May and June for patients between four and 21-years-old at NAIT's dental clinic.

The cleaning and fluoride treatment, which takes about two hours, is done under supervision of NAIT instructors.

Teeth cleaning appointments can be made by calling 780-471-8827. METRO

LRT. Mayor doesn't want to borrow money for expansion of line

Mayor Stephen Mandel wants to move to the next stop on the LRT expansion without adding to the city's debt.

Council will discuss a capital profile Wednesday that outlines the southeast and west lines.

"I would hope we would … move forward to get administration to bring back final numbers," said Mandel. "It's exciting that there are options. (But) my opinion has always been if we're going to build it, let's use capital dollars in that time period."

Transportation boss Bob Boutilier said the profile shows other levels of government that Edmonton is ready to move forward with its $800 million of the $1.8 billion line to Millwoods by 2017.

Options include borrowing, increasing taxes, or a P3. HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

Kindergarten students Coralie Mastaler, left, and Ayla Sanchez learn to share feelings through play — it's part of the new PATHS program at Our Lady of the Prairies School in Callingwood. LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

Teaching well-being, along with three Rs

New program. Focus on expressing feelings, problem-solving brought to city elementary school

LUCY HAINES
For Metro in Edmonton

Kindergartners Coralie Mastaler and Ayla Sanchez sit on the carpet in class, building a train track and talking through puppet animals.

Quoted

"Kids on the playground now have the same vocabulary — speak the same language. They can say they're mad, and why they're mad, and problem solve so they're not mad anymore. I've seen a huge change in our kids."

Jeff Johnson, principal at Our Lady of the Prairies Catholic Elementary School

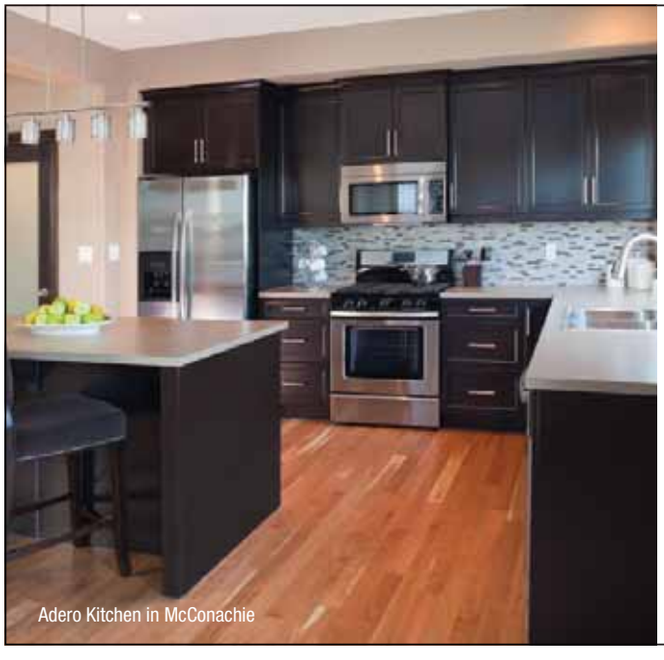
But the girls aren't just playing, they're putting into practice lessons learned through the Edmonton Catholic School District's (ECSD) pilot program PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies).

The program, only the second of its kind in Canada, shows kindergarten to Grade 2 students words and techniques to understand and describe feelings to teachers and fellow students — anger, frustration, guilt — kids are taught that all feelings are valid, and it's OK to express those in a healthy way.

"Research found that social and emotional learning was essential to learning in class and cope with situations outside class," said ECSD's Cheryl Shinkaruk.

She points to techniques like feeling faces that give students social cues when a peer is upset, or the turtle, where kids can breathe deeply and decompress before reacting.

The program will move to include grades 3 and 4 next year, and grades 5 and 6 the following year.



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Wildrose leader: Build bridge between rural dwellers and urbanites

Alberta is increasingly divided between urbanites and rural dwellers, says Wildrose Opposition Leader Danielle Smith, who named herself cities critic Tuesday.

Her comments come only days after criticizing "urban elites" for their attitudes toward small-town voters and they follow suggestions by one of her newly minted members that rural voters have more common sense.

Bridge building "needs to go both ways," Smith said after announcing her shadow cabinet Tuesday. "There's a serious divide in this province, a lack of understanding about how much of our wealth is generated in our rural areas."

Smith's right-wing party was nearly shut out of the province's two largest cities, winning only two seats in Calgary and none in Edmonton.

Smith admitted she has work to do in the cities, where two-thirds of Alberta's population lives. "We are prepared to set the reset button," she said. "We know we have a lot of work to do to build the trust with Edmonton council and with Edmontonians, that was very clear from the election results."

Rebuilding

"We are prepared to set the reset button ... we know we have a lot of work to do to build the trust ..."

Danielle Smith, Wildrose Opposition Leader

Smith said she has asked Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi if he might be able to broker a peace summit with Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel, who was critical of the Wildrose during the campaign.

Smith's shadow cabinet includes key posts for Rob Anderson and Heather Forsyth.

Anderson was named Opposition house leader and finance critic. Forsyth was named to the health portfolio.

Shayne Saskiw, the Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills member who knocked off cabinet minister Ray Danyluk, is deputy house leader and justice critic. Bruce McAllister, who bested cabinet minister Ted Morton, was given education.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don't buy, just borrow an e-reader at any local library

Branching out. Planned expansion from two libraries to all 17 set for end of June

HEATHER MCINTYRE
heather.mcintyre@metronews.ca

Summer readers rejoice, as e-readers will soon be available for borrowing from all Edmonton Public Library branches.

By the end of June, all 17 locations will offer the Sony Reader Wi-Fi for three weeks, an expansion of a successful pilot project at two branches that began Dec. 5, 2011. A total of 50 devices were available between the Lois Hole Library and Millwoods Branch.

"All of the e-reader kits were in circulation by the second week of the pilot," said Leanne Drury Melsness, manager of digital-literacy initiatives. "Total circulation after three months of the pilot was 240. "The total holds on the kits was around 500."

Readers can use their library card to borrow the device, similar to taking out a book, and use either OverDrive or Freading to borrow ebooks for up to three weeks.

Drury Melsness said customer feedback from the pilot indicated most were trying out e-readers and ebooks for the first time, and were interested in accessing the EPL book collection.

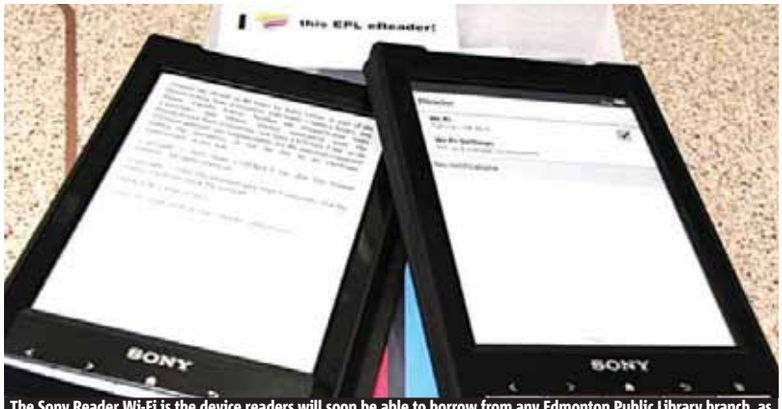
But that's not all.

"Customer feedback has indicated interest in EPL loaning other devices," she said, citing tablets as an example. "So this is being investigated."

Follow Heather McIntyre on Twitter @MacsTheWord

Between the lines

- **No renewal.** Customers can place holds on the e-readers, but cannot renew them due to demand.
- **Don't lose it.** Late fees are $1 per day, while replacing an e-reader kit costs $215.



The Sony Reader Wi-Fi is the device readers will soon be able to borrow from any Edmonton Public Library branch, as what began as a pilot program will expand to all locations by the end of June. METRO FILE PHOTO

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Defence rests

Lawyers' closing arguments loom as Stafford trial nears completion

The trial of the man accused of killing eight-year-old Victoria Stafford is now poised to hear closing arguments.

Defence lawyer Dirk Derstine has finished presenting evidence on behalf of his client, Michael Rafferty.

All that remains is for each side to deliver its closing statements, after which Superior Court Judge Thomas Heeney will give his charge to the jury.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alleged deadly beating

Manitoba soldier pleads guilty to manslaughter

A Manitoba-based soldier accused of beating Duane John Lacquette to death has pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Jason John Ouimet was a gunner at Canadian Forces Base Shilo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Key legal victory for most injured veterans

Veteran John Labelle goes through security screening at Federal Court in Halifax in November. A Federal Court ruling that Ottawa should stop clawing back disability benefits from former Canadian Forces members is a key legal victory for some of the country's most injured veterans, their lawyers say. The veterans, who launched a class-action lawsuit against the federal government, argued last November that the benefits were being unjustly clawed back because the payments were unfairly deemed as income. In a decision released Tuesday, Judge Robert Barnes agreed that the monthly Veterans Affairs pensions aren't "income benefits."

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black to come back after all

Surprise move. Feds grant temporary-resident permit to disgraced mogul, saying he's no threat to public

Conrad Black, who renounced his Canadian citizenship, will be allowed return here on a special permit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former media tycoon Conrad Black has been granted permission to live in Canada when he is released from a Florida prison Friday after serving time for obstruction of justice and fraud.

The Department of Citizenship and Immigration has authorized a one-year temporary-resident permit for Black that starts in early May, a source confirmed.

The permit was granted on the grounds that he poses no threat to the Canadian public, a source familiar with the matter told the paper.

The 67-year-old Montreal native renounced his Canadian citizenship in 2001 after being offered a peerage in Britain's House of Lords.

Black's two convictions make him criminally inadmissible for residency in Canada. But his temporary-resident permit circumvents this.

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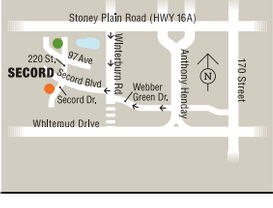

End of an era? Cuba mulls ending travel restrictions

After controlling the comings and goings of its people for five decades, communist Cuba appears on the verge of a momentous decision to lift many travel restrictions. One senior official says a "radical and profound" change is weeks away.

The comment by Parliament Chief Ricardo Alarcon has residents, exiles and policy makers abuzz with speculation that the much-hated exit visa could be a thing of the past, even if Raul Castro's government continues to limit the travel of doctors, scientists, military personnel and others in sensitive roles to prevent a brain drain.

In the past 18 months, Castro has removed prohibitions on some private enterprises, legalized real estate and car sales, and allowed compatriots to hire employees.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exit visa

- **Open doors.** The move would open the door to increased emigration and make it easier for Cubans overseas to avoid forfeiting their residency rights, a fate that has befallen waves of exiles since the 1959 revolution.
- **Travel abroad.** It could also bolster the number of Cubans who travel abroad for work, increasing earnings sent home in the short term and, ultimately, investment by a new moneyed class.

Netherlands

Weed-sale ban partially in effect

A policy barring foreign tourists from buying marijuana in the Netherlands went into effect in parts of the country Tuesday, with attention focused on the southern city of Maastricht.

Weed is technically illegal in the Netherlands, but it has been sold openly for decades in small amounts in designated cafés. Under a government policy change, as of May 1, only holders of a "weed pass" are supposed to be allowed to purchase the drug in three southern provinces.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Questions still remain over who facilitated bin Laden's stay in Pakistan

Security forces. No answers from Pakistan one year after the U.S. raid that killed world's most wanted terrorist

A Pakistani shepherd looks on while leading his livestock along a road in Abbottabad, Pakistan, where U.S. commandos killed Osama bin Laden one year ago. MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One year since U.S. commandos flew into this Pakistani army town and killed Osama bin Laden, Islamabad has failed to answer tough questions over whether its security forces were protecting the world's most wanted terrorist.

Partly as a result, fallout from the raid still poisons relations between Washington and Pakistan, where anti-American sentiment, support for Islamist extremism and anger at the violation of sovereignty in the operation can be summed up by a Twitter hashtag doing the rounds: #02MayBlackDay.

The Pakistani government initially welcomed the raid that killed bin Laden in his three-storey compound, but within hours the mood changed as it became clear that Pakistan's army was cut out of the operation. Any discussions over how bin Laden managed to stay undetected in Pakistan were drowned out in anger at what the army portrayed as a treacherous act by a supposed ally.

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U.S. feds nab 5 allegedly plotting to blow up bridge

Turning to violence. Accused plotters talked about making a statement against corporate America

Top row, from left, are Douglas Wright, Brandon Baxter and Anthony Hayne. Bottom row, from left, are Joshua Stafford and Connor Stevens. They are accused of plotting to blow up a bridge. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/FBI

Five men described by federal authorities as anarchists angry with corporate America and the government were charged Tuesday with plotting to bomb a bridge linking two wealthy Cleveland suburbs.

The men were arrested Monday night after unknowingly working with an FBI informant for months. They were charged with conspiracy and trying to bomb property used in interstate commerce.

"They talked about making a statement against corporate America and the government as some of the motivations for their actions," said U.S. Attorney Steven Dettelbach in announcing the arrests.

The alleged plotters researched explosives and obtained what they thought was C-4 explosives. The items, in fact, were harmless and the public was never at risk, because the men got the material from the informant, officials said.

All five had initial appearances Tuesday in U.S. District Court, where Magistrate Judge Greg White ordered them jailed without bond pending a hearing Monday. The charges carry possible penalties of more than 20 years in prison.

"Love you, Connor," shouted James Stevens to his son, Connor Stevens, 20, of suburban Berea, at the end of the hearing.

The other suspects were identified as Joshua S. Stafford, 23, and Anthony Hayne, 35, both of Cleveland, Brandon L. Baxter, 20, of nearby Lakewood, and Douglas L. Wright, 26, of Indianapolis.

The target of the plot was a bridge that carries a state highway over part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and a picturesque scenic rail line and canal towpath in the Brecksville area, about 24 kilometres south of downtown Cleveland.

The affidavit filed in court indicated that federal authorities got help from a paid confidential source who had previous robbery and other convictions and was on probation for passing bad checks. It said the informant began making contact with the suspects in October and had recorded conversations with them over the past three months.

The men also discussed other potential targets, including a law enforcement centre, oil wells or a cargo ship, according to the affidavit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smuggling. U.K. police arrest seven on suspicion of funding terrorism

Seven people have been arrested in Britain on suspicion of financing terrorism in Somalia by smuggling a leaf that can produce a mild high into the U.S., officials said Tuesday.

Scotland Yard said the group was arrested as part of an operation that involved Homeland Security Investigations, the investigative branch of U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

The operation was investigating a network suspected of illegally exporting a leaf known as khat from the U.K., where it is legal, to the U.S. and Canada, where it is a controlled substance, Scotland Yard said.

"The proceeds generated by this illegal activity (were) then transferred back to Somalia," said Ross Feinstein, a spokesman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Khat

- Khat is popular in East Africa and parts of the Arabian peninsula. Users chew on the leaf to induce feelings of euphoria.
- It has been illegal in the U.S. since 1993, but is still legal in many countries worldwide.

Terrorism

Man convicted of plotting New York subway attack

A man was convicted Tuesday of plotting an aborted suicide mission against New York City subways in 2009 — a case that featured the first-time testimony from admitted homegrown terrorists about al-Qaida's fixation with pulling off another attack on America soil.

A jury found Adis Medunjanin guilty of all counts for his role in a terror plot that federal authorities say was one of the closest calls since Sept. 11, 2001.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British doctors condemn McDonald's Sponsorship

Olympics. British doctors criticize major fast food sponsor for being a poor example for athletic activity

A computer-generated image of the London 2012 Olympics-McDonald's Central Restaurant in London. British doctors have slammed the McDonald's sponsorship. MCDONALD'S LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McDonald's is a sponsor for the London Olympics, and a British doctors' group says that's sending the wrong message in a country with ballooning obesity.

Big Macs, fries and milkshakes will be part of McDonald's exclusively branded menu at the Olympics and the fast-food giant will soon be opening its largest franchise in the world, a two-storey cathedral-like restaurant that seats 1,500 customers, at London's Olympic Park. McDonald's will be the only restaurateur allowed to sell brand-name food at the Games and there will also be a separate McDonald's within the Athletes' Village — in addition to three others at the Olympic Park.

Alongside McDonald's, Coca-Cola has the exclusive right to sell non-alcoholic drinks at Olympic venues. Heineken has been named the Games' official beer.

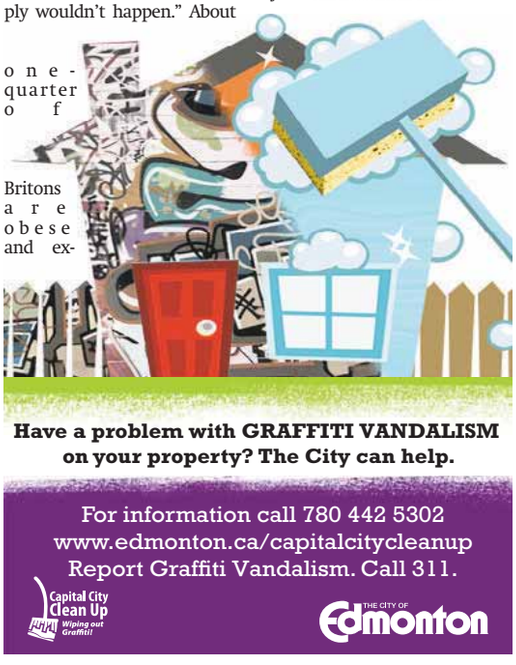
"It's very sad that an event that celebrates the very best of athletic achievements should be sponsored by companies contributing to the obesity problem and unhealthy habits," said Terence Stephenson, a spokesman for the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges.

The group is calling upon the British government to restrict advertising by McDonald's, Coca-Cola and Heineken during the Olympic Games, which are being held in London from July 27 to Aug.12.

But that's unlikely to happen. London Olympic organizers have defended their decision to accept McDonald's sponsorship as a business deal.

"Sponsors provide a huge amount of the funding required to stage the games," said a London 2012 spokesman in a statement.

"Without our partners such as McDonald's, the Games simply wouldn't happen." About one-quarter of Britons are obese and experts estimate that could jump to half by 2030. Obesity and related health ailments cost the U.K. health system about 4 billion pounds ($6.5 billion) every year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



News Corp. Rupert Murdoch chastised by British lawmakers

A committee of British lawmakers called Rupert Murdoch unfit to run his global media empire — a finding that reflects just how deeply the phone-hacking scandal born of his defunct News of the World has shaken the relationship between the press and politics.

The divisive ruling Tuesday against Murdoch, his son James and three of their executives also exposed the waning influence of the media tycoon, and could jeopardize his control of a major broadcaster.

Parliament's culture, media and sport committee — a panel that scrutinizes the standards of Britain's press and sports authorities — began an inquiry amid disclosures about widespread tabloid hacking of voice mail, concerns over bribes paid to police for scoops, and politicians who may have overstepped the bounds by cozying up to key players in the Murdoch empire.

Arrests

43

A total of 43 News International employees have been arrested in a new investigation into phone hacking, bribery and computer hacking.

Tarring the credentials of both the 81-year-old media mogul and James Murdoch, a former executive chairman of News Corp.'s U.K. newspaper division, the committee's scathing words could affect their controlling stake in British Sky Broadcasting.

Britain's broadcasting regulator Ofcom acknowledged it was studying details of the report, which unanimously agreed that three key News International executives had misled Parliament — a verdict that can see offenders hauled before legislators to make a personal apology.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Engineering. Shareholders criticize SNC-Lavelin

SNC-Lavalin is getting an earful from its largest shareholders about the engineering giant's handling of internal problems that have sullied its reputation.

The Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec has become the second large investor to criticize how the Montreal-based company's board has dealt with recent events, including $56 million of payments to unknown agents.

`Like other investors, many of our questions about recent events and the many allegations made about the company remain outstanding and we wish to express our discomfort,'' Marie Giguere, vice-president of legal affairs, wrote in a letter dated April 30 to SNC chairman Gwyn Morgan.

The missive was sent just days before SNC faces shareholders in Toronto for the first time since the events led to the resignations of three senior executives, including its chief executive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Auto Sales

Chrysler sales up, truck sales down

Chrysler models were again the best-selling vehicles in Canada in April as other big-name automakers reported slipping sales.

Automakers remarked on an ongoing trend in which consumers are shifting their choices from trucks to cars, hybrids and fuel-efficient vehicles amid rising gasoline prices.

Chrysler said it sold 24,540 vehicles in April.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.44¢ US (+0.22¢)

TSX 12,332.79 (+40.09)

OIL $106.13 US (+1.26¢)

GOLD $1,662.40 US (-1.80¢)

Natural gas: $2.371 US (-8.6¢)
Dow Jones: 13,279.32 (+65.69)

Manufacturing

Cinram losing customers

Cinram International's long-suffering unitholders took another hit Tuesday after the DVD and CD manufacturer announced it's losing a "non-core" customer that accounts for about six per cent of overall revenue.

Cinram units (TSX:CRW.UN) dropped by 50 per cent to half a cent at mid-afternoon. The units have fallen from 66 cents a year ago and $26.50 five years ago, when it was one of the world's largest producers of recorded media. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airline

Delta buying refinery to cut costs

Delta Air Lines is buying a refinery in a novel — and some say risky — attempt to slice $300 million US a year from its escalating jet fuel bill.

The airline said Monday that it is buying a refinery near Philadelphia for $150 million from Phillips 66, an American refining company.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aircraft. Bombardier secures WestJet contract

WestJet Airlines has selected Bombardier to supply the propeller aircraft it requires for a new regional service, putting to rest speculation that the order would go to a European rival of the Montreal-based plane manufacturer.

The Calgary-based airline announced Tuesday that it will take delivery of up to 45 of the Bombardier Q400 Next Generation planes over the next six years. They will be used for a new regional service that WestJet expects to launch next year.

WestJet didn't reveal the cost but analysts estimated that, based on list prices, the orders would be worth up to $1.4 billion to Bombardier if all 45 planes are purchased. The actual price is often below list price, however.

Gregg Saretsky, WestJet's president and chief executive, told analysts and reporters that the two companies had agreed not to disclose the price for the planes.

`Suffice it to say that there was a vigorous competition between the two manufacturers and we're very pleased with the price we were able to secure these aircraft for,'' Saretsky added.

The new planes, which have been used by other Canadian airlines and carriers around the world, will be used to bolster WestJet's presence in some communities and add destinations that the airline currently doesn't reach.

Saretsky said WestJet looked closely at planes by the European manufacturer ATR combination of seating, speed and range.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Bombardier Q400 NextGen.
BOMBARDIER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RIM reveals new operating system

BlackBerry 10 OS. Prototype of operating system for developers makes flashy debut

The chief executive of Research In Motion, Thorsten Heins, stood before developers who could play a crucial role in the company's future and gave them a first look at the new BlackBerry 10 operating system.

The widely anticipated unveiling at its BlackBerry World conference centered on some awe-inspiring technological developments launched to pounding club music and a heavy dose of flashing spotlights.

The three-day showcase is intended to get fickle programmers excited about the future of RIM and developing applications for the BlackBerry 10. The Waterloo, Ont., company is struggling to recover from blunders over the past year, including flagging sales and criticism that it hasn't released a new smartphone in ages.

"We're taking our time to make sure we get this right," Heins told developers.

RIM CEO Thorsten Heins shows off a BlackBerry with the new operating system, which is still in beta testing. REINHOLD MATAV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heins, who marked his 100th day atop the smartphone maker on Tuesday, then pulled a touch-screen device from his pocket running the BlackBerry 10 OS in its beta version.

Overall, the interface shared a familiarity with those of the popular Apple iPhone and Android devices, though there were several new features including a modified touch-screen keypad that adapts to common words each user types, and then allows them to select the full words with a single swipe of the screen. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Camera

The smartphone's camera excited the audience.

- One feature captures several frames in quick succession, which can be combined to create a single "ideal" picture. If one person blinked in a photo, it can be replaced with an image of their face taken moments earlier with their eyes open.

Anti-Apple stunt

RIM takes blame for flashmob

BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion has admitted their role in organizing an anti-Apple flashmob outside a Sydney, Australia Apple Store last week.

The stunt, which saw dozens of black-clothed people arrive outside the Sydney store in a coach bus and wave "Wake up" signs at Apple customers inside the shop, drew criticism in the blogosphere as an "embarrassing" marketing attempt.

A number of tech-focused websites first pointed the finger at Samsung, the smartphone company known for its Apple-targeted campaigns. But Samsung denied their role in the guerrilla marketing campaign.

MacWorld Australia revealed on April 29 that they found a Double Click URL on a 'Wake Up' webpage that had ties to RIM Australia.

The campaign is said to be part of RIM's promotion for BlackBerry OS 10. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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THERE ARE NO WINNERS IN THE LINGERIE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

It wasn't easy, but I'm pretty sure I've discovered the worst idea ever spawned.

If you were going to start a Museum for Morons, this would be the cornerstone: the Lingerie Football League.

Here's the "concept": Teams of scantily clad women play tackle football. There are seven players to a side, and in addition to shoulder pads and helmets their uniforms include garters, bras and panties.

As far as I can tell, there are no male cheerleader squads in their tighty-whities, cheering on local favourites such as the Los Angeles Temptations, Lingerie Bowl champs for three years in row, or the Philadelphia Passion, last year's losers.

Here's the thing: The LFL is too stupid to live, at least in the U.S. The league recently announced it has shut down U.S. operations to concentrate on re-opening in April 2013 (remind you of the restaurant that's shut down for "renovations?") In the meantime, the only teams on the field in 2012 will be in — wait for it — Canada.

No league of their own

The sad thing is that, despite the automatic, gratuitous titillation that comes with this farce, some of the young women who play the game can actually play, and, when asked, say they would rather play in a serious league that requires clothes. But LFL is the only game in town.

Apparently, there are enough hosers left in the Great White North to watch women humiliate themselves for nothing. The league stopped paying players at the beginning of the 2011 season. If they get hurt in those ridiculous get-ups, tough. They pay their own health insurance, except in Canada where you and I pay for their health care.

There are four teams set to begin the season: the BC Angels, the Toronto Triumph and, to the eternal shame of Saskatchewan, the Regina Rage and the Saskatoon Sirens. The teams will play eight games, culminating in the Canadian Lingerie Bowl the day before the Grey Cup. The CFL should sue for unwanted proximity.

The sad thing — but not the only sad thing! There's a plethora of sad things! — is that, despite the automatic, gratuitous titillation that comes with this farce, some of the young women who play the game can actually play, and, when asked, say they would rather play in a serious league that requires clothes. But LFL is the only game in town. Actually four towns. In Canada.

It will be interesting to see if any of these games are actually played. And, if they are, if anyone shows up to watch. Even the most dedicated fans of the Rage or the Angels will be hard-pressed to explain where they're going instead of mowing the lawn or power-washing the deck: "Oh, just to watch a football game played by women in their sexy lingerie. Some of the girls can, um, play."

The Toronto Triumph, in blue, host the Baltimore Charm in Lingerie Football League action at the Ricoh Coliseum in Toronto.
VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Standing in for mom's pouch

Baby in a bag

Baby wallaby bags new home

DUNSTABLE, ENGLAND. A tiny baby wallaby has been saved and is now being raised inside a backpack. Tilly, a seventh-month-old Bennett's wallaby, is being hand-reared by Whipsnade Zoo keepers using a rucksack and blanket as a substitute marsupium after being found out of her mother's pouch. **METRO**

Pouch of safety

- After birth, wallabies immediately crawl into their mothers' pouches where they continue to develop after birth. As with kangaroos, young wallabies are called joeys. Even after a joey leaves the pouch, it often returns to jump in to evade danger.

Zoo staff expect Tilly to live in the bag for another two months.
GETTY IMAGES

Bag lady

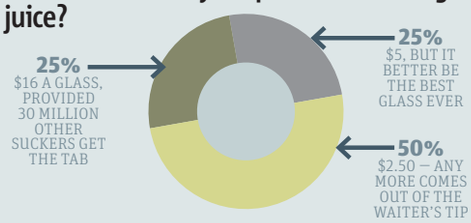
"She spends most of the day snuggled up in her rucksack with a blanket, where she's warm and safe, but has started to become more adventurous, hopping about and venturing out a bit more."

Jo Shirley, Whipsnade Zoo keeper

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How much would you spend for an orange juice?



Twitter

@farrensquare:
EPS makes it really difficult to report a suspicious and probably stolen car. How hard is it to take the address and swing by? #yeg

@multikaren:
seeing the 747 bus makes me emotional. we have an airport bus, you guys. lil #yeg is all growed up @FlyEIA

@youarefierce:
Holy flying monkey crap its WINDY #yeg

@joelscruton:
Just saw the google maps car cruising #yeg streets. #doyourhair.

@nn_antonio:
Looks like Carrie Underwood still hasn't gotten over the broken heart. Avoiding our city. I'm sorry Carrie... #yeg

@cziborr:
Ah, life in #yeg. Depressive winters followed by hypomanic summers! :>

metro

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Javier Bardem, left, stands with Daniel Craig. The two square off in the new James Bond film. DAVID DETTMAN/METRO WORLD NEWS

Fall in love with a villain

New Bond film. Javier Bardem wants you to sympathize with his character as he tries to kill James Bond

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

It's a dirty job trying to kill James Bond, but Javier Bardem does not believe he is the bad guy.

"Actors are the lawyers of our characters and we defend them no matter what," he smiles.

Penelope Cruz's husband is serious when he describes super-villain Raoul Silva as a "very complex character."

His attempt to win sympathy for the devil was inspired by Bruno Ganz's performance as Adolf Hitler in The Downfall.

Bardem already looks bulletproof. In 2007, the 53 year-old became the first Spaniard ever to win an Oscar, for playing psychopathic killer in No Country For Old Men, and his casting opposite 007 confirms his rise to Hollywood royalty status.

"This is only my second commercial movie, the territory is still new to me," says Bardem, who spent most of his career in low-budget, experimental cinema. "But, for me, it's the same. The set is bigger, the money is bigger, but the commitment is the same."

He has enjoyed his duel with "impressive" Daniel Craig, although Bardem did not share his rival's love of the gym, and kept in shape by eating only fish and vegetables. Although happy to play the villain, life-long Bond fan Bardem would not rule out a job swap to wear the tuxedo in future.

"I'm open, but Daniel is doing a great job."

Online

Want more bond?

- **Website.** Go online to metronews.ca/features for our complete look at 50 years of James Bond movies.

Spoiler alert

Prediction time: Look out for these...

- **M dies.** A shock as the MI6 chief has been with the series since the beginning. Judi Dench has played M for seven films but rumours persist this will be the last.
- **Spy feelings.** Daniel Craig is credited with bringing more humanity to 007, and he says we "get to know him better" in Skyfall. Part of this involves seeing his home for the first time, and possibly discovering that he leaves all his washing up in the sink.
- **The best of both worlds.** Key scenes will take place in Asia. Bond will confront villain Silva on the Japanese Island of Hashima, and test his luck in a gorgeously designed Macau casino. But expect plenty of action in London, including an epic chase.

CFL wide receiver Brad Smith. HANDOUT

CFL wide receiver. Brad Smith to seek soulmate as star of Bachelor Canada

Canadian Football League wide receiver Brad Smith will seek his soulmate as the star of The Bachelor Canada when it premieres in the fall.

The program will be modelled after the popular U.S reality show The Bachelor.

A statement from Rogers Media describes Smith as "driven, confident, candid and comfortable in his own skin."

It goes on to say he is attracted to women "who are independent, intelligent, and just as confident in a ponytail, sweatpants and sweatshirt as they are all dressed up for a night out on the town."

The 28-year-old athlete says he's "extremely honoured" to be chosen, adding that he takes the experience very seriously and believes in the process. Additional details, including the identity of the host and the 25 bachelorettes, are still to be revealed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Genie's and Gemini's become one show

Canada's top film and television awards bashes are being combined into a single televised ceremony. The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television says it is merging annual broadcasts of the Genie Awards, which salute the best in film, and the Gemini Awards, which celebrate homegrown television. Academy chair Martin Katz says the move follows "extensive industry consultation and outreach." The next gala will be a two-hour event on March 3, 2013 airing on CBC-TV. The annual Gemeaux Awards will celebrate French-language television and digital media on Radio-Canada on Sept. 16, as previously announced. Shows currently eligible for the 2012 Gemini Awards will be part of the academy's new awards show in March 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy dropped from CBC-TV fall schedule

Meet (and re-meet) the Avengers

Star-studded film. Here are a few of the movies that helped shape this group of actors into stars

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth and Mark Ruffalo star in The Avengers. HANDOUT

The Avengers stars a group of actors who were well known before they donned the capes and mechanical suits of Iron Man, Captain America, Thor and The Hulk.

Of them, Robert Downey Jr. was the best known, while the Chrises, Evans and Hemsworth were talented up-and-comers and Mark Ruffalo was the Oscar-nominated indie king.

With the film breaking box office records in its worldwide release, it's fair to say each of these actors will now go from superheroes to superstars.

But what about before they could leap tall buildings in a single bound? (I know that was Superman, but you get my point!) Here are some movies that helped shape this quartet of actors into stars.

Robert Downey Jr.
Despite saying, "I know very little about acting. I'm just an incredibly gifted faker," Downey has developed into what Esquire called "the second best actor in the world."

Ten years ago, however, Downey was better known for his extracurricular activities than his films. His committed, loopy performances made him a star at a young age and netted him an Oscar nomination for playing Charlie Chaplin, but drugs and alcohol sidelined him until 2001 when, clean and sober, he rebuilt his career.

MUST SEES: Less Than Zero, Natural Born Killers, Chaplin, Good Night & Good Luck, Richard III.

Chris Evans
Evans played a superhero in Fantastic Four and its sequel, but it took Captain America to make him an A-list star.

He's flip-flopped between mainstream fare like Not Another Teen Movie and edgier films like The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond, to "show some layers. I'm not just a superhero-action guy."

MUST SEES: Scott Pilgrim vs. the World, Puncture, Fierce People.

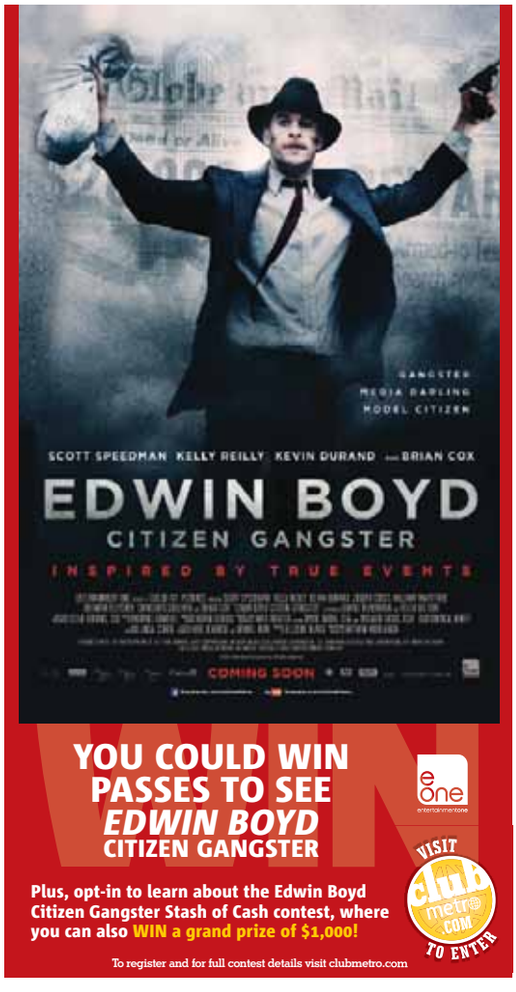
Chris Hemsworth
Hemsworth made his American debut as George Kirk, father to the icon character James T. in the reboot of Star Trek.

Already a soap (Home and Away) and reality show (Dancing with the Stars) star in Australia, the muscle bound performer beat out dozens of actors to win the role of Thor, including his own brother Liam Hemsworth.

MUST SEES: Cabin in the Woods, A Perfect Getaway.

Mark Ruffalo
Early comparisons to Marlon Brando earned Ruffalo roles in an interesting array of films. Playing Laura Linney's slacker brother in You Can Count on Me made him a star and indie film darling.

MUST SEES: My Life Without Me, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Shutter Island, The Kids Are All Right.



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Once leads Tony Award nominations

The low-tech musical Once, based on the love story of a Czech flower seller and an Irish street musician in Dublin, received a leading 11 Tony Award nominations Tuesday, proving sentiment can sway nominators just as much as special effects.

Two other musicals — The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess and Nice Work If You Can Get It — each got 10 nominations as the Tony committee spread the wealth. Unlike last year's The Book of Mormon, no monster single hit dominated the nominations.

Once, with songs by Marketa Irglova and Glen Hansard, was originally a low-budget movie made for about $150,000. The film earned $20 million, thanks in part to an original score that included the sublime 2007 Oscar-winning song, Falling Slowly. The musical is a study in how to beautifully adapt a movie to the stage.

Its director, John Tiffany, was sitting at a play in Glasgow, Scotland, when his phone began buzzing "like crazy" with word of the show's success. He sat through the play but learned about the Tony haul after glancing at texts.

Steve Kazee, left, and Cristin Milioti are shown in a scene from Once in New York.
BONEAU/BRYAN-BROWN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The cast is shown from the musical Newsies.
DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It's just brilliant. It's incredible because it's such a delicate, unassuming show. But Once constantly surprises me. I think it's the power of the music and the storytelling that people connect with," said Tiffany, who was nominated for best director of a musical.

His show earned its stars, Steve Kazee and Cristin Milioti, best actor in a musical nominations. It also earned nods for best scenic design, best book of a musical and Elizabeth A. Davis got a nomination for an actress in a featured role.

"I think it's a universal message about love. Not just between two people, but a love of music, a love of your country, how we share things as people," Kazee said. "There are moments that are just snapshots in your life but they stay with you forever. We all have those moments."

Peter and the Starcatcher, a play about the origins of Peter Pan, earned nine nominations, while the fall revival of Follies and the new Disney musical Newsies got eight nods each.

The Tony Awards will be broadcast on CBS from the Beacon Theatre on June 10. Neil Patrick Harris, the star of How I Met Your Mother, will be the host. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nominations

- The best new play category includes Clybourne Park by Bruce Norris, Peter and the Starcatcher by Rick Elice, and David Ives' Venus in Fur.
- In the musical revival category, Follies and The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess will compete against two Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice works: Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita.
- Broadway's most expensive show, the $75 million Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark, got only two nominations, for best scenic design and costume.

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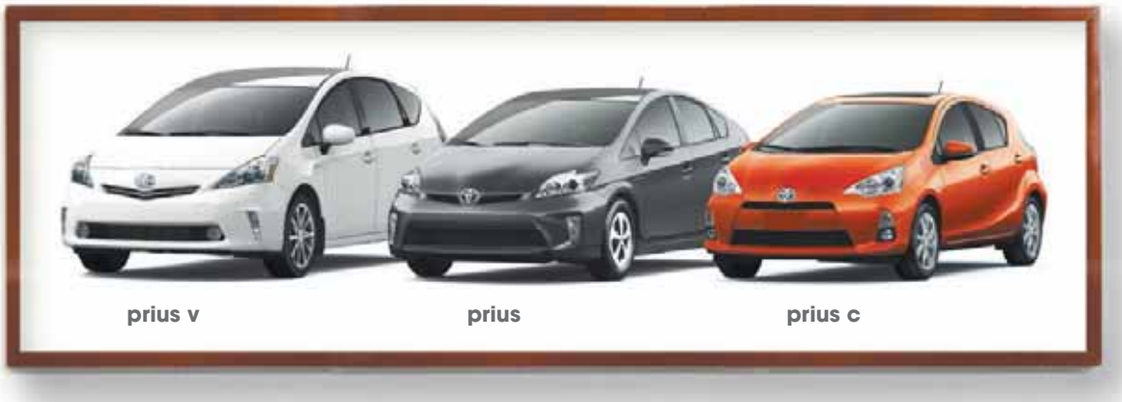

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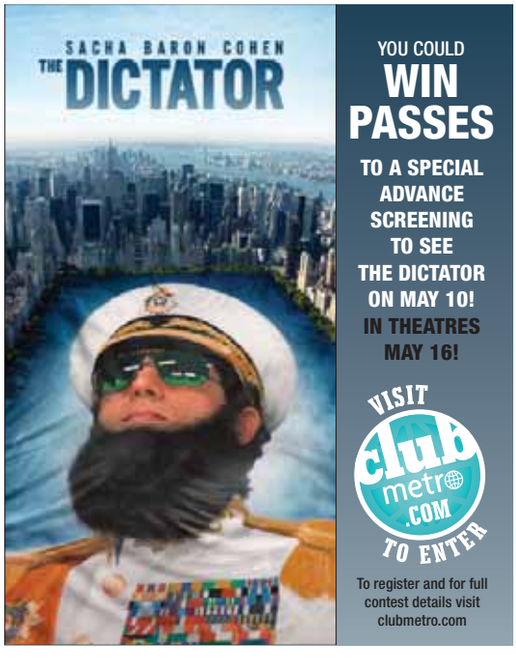
John Mayer ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Singing to let it sink in: Mayer's new song about getting over Aniston

John Mayer is reportedly using Shadow Days, a song off his new album, to finally process the end of his relationship with Jennifer Aniston, according to Us Weekly.

"It really took him a long time to get over her. He really loved her a lot," a source says. "He wrote the song as a farewell letter knowing (Jen) would hear it. Ultimately he's done a lot of self-reflection though, and he realizes they weren't right for each other."

In the video for the song, Mayer drives along a lonely desert road, singing, "I finally learned to let it go."



METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Jessica finally has that baby

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Although Jessica Simpson didn't have the longest pregnancy in the world, it certainly felt like she did.

Well, the eternal wait ended yesterday with Simpson and her fiancé Eric Johnson announcing the birth (finally!) of daughter Maxwell Drew Johnson on Simpson's website.

The baby was certainly well-marinated, weighing in at 9 lbs, 13 oz. But lest Maxwell Drew get all the attention, let's look at which other celebrities popped out a baby while we were all fixated on Simpson's ever-expanding waistline.

• Katherine Heigl and husband Josh Kelley expanded their family and adopted another daughter, according to People magazine. The baby's name and other details are not yet available.

• It was announced in March that Charlize Theron adopted a baby. "She is the proud mom of a healthy baby boy named Jackson," her rep told People magazine.

• Simpson's ex, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo and his wife Candice Crawford welcomed their first child on April 9, his NFL teammates announced on Twitter.

The only birth to overshadow Simpson's? Beyoncé and Jay-Z welcoming daughter Blue Ivy Carter in January.

Of course, they are our version of royalty, whereas Jessica Simpson is a reality TV star/shoemaker who hasn't had a hit song in at least a decade.

So why all the attention on her uterus? The world may never know. For now, let's breathe a sigh of relief and enjoy this time of non-Simpson-womb-watching. That is, until the photos of Maxwell surface in the highest-bidder tabloid, say, next week.

Maggie Gyllenhaal

Gyllenhaal welcomes baby girl after keeping mum on pregnancy

Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard welcomed their second daughter, Gloria Ray, last week, their rep confirms to People magazine. The pair, who married in 2009, also have a 5-year-old daughter, Ramona.

Gloria Ray was born April 19 in New York. Gyllenhaal kept mum on her pregnancy this time around as long as she could — which wasn't easy.

"I find it difficult to pretend you're not pregnant, which I had to do," she told USA Today in March. "I didn't let anyone know until three-and-a-half months this time. I went to film festivals. I'm throwing up in the bathroom and having to keep pretzels in my purse, and having to fit into dresses."

Twitter

@alecbaldwin
If everyone that follows me sent me $20, I would be able to finally have some well-deserved peace and quiet...

@BetteMidler
People, I have just recovered from being a clue in @NYTimes Crossword puzzle yesterday...

@SaraKSilverman
Fun fact: despite all the dirty tweets I send, the one about this march for women has received the most hate mail

@SethMacFarlane
If you have ever pinned a "Cathy" strip to the wall of your cubicle, I am content for us to remain strangers.

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Tourists look through a crack in a still-existing portion of the Berlin Wall at the main memorial . METRO WORLD NEWS

5 Berlin Surprises

Think Berlin is simply a city of bad graffiti and raves? Au contraire! We found some chilled out lounges and delicious food.

METRO WORLD NEWS

1 Unexpectedly good aesthetic

Despite what you see in the movies, it's not all Soviet concrete (though there's a fair share) — Berlin is an interesting mix of Paris meets the Ukraine. The result is surprisingly pretty, and the city's Bauhaus School sensibility stamps industrial design, architecture, even kitchenware. Be sure to visit the Bauhus Archiv, and then spot influences throughout the city.

Bauhaus Archiv
Klingelhöferstraße 14
10785 Berlin, Germany
+49 30 2540-020

2 There's chilled-out local bars

OD'd on IDM? When you're ready to recover from the raves, take a break from the glo sticks at this sophisticated but relaxed bar. Scotch and Sofa boasts a décor that screams junk sale-meets-Mad Men, but the crowd is diverse and definitely local to the up-and-coming Prenzlauer Berg 'hood. Look for an excellent cocktail menu and generous pours.

Scotch and Sofa
Kollwitzstraße 18
10405 Berlin
+4930 44042371
+49 30 2540-020

3 Live music in an intimate setting

Not a raver but still looking for a night 'out'? Try Das Hotel. It's a bar-cum-jazz club jammed into a shopfront, with a labyrinth of nooks rather than rooms to post up. Enjoy the live jazz and sip whisky. How civilized. (And smoker alert! You can smoke inside here.) Cash only so be prepared.

Das Hotel
Mariannenstrase 26A
10999 Berlin
+493084118433
dashotelclassic.blogspot.co.uk

4 Terrific Asian food?!?!

Balance the famous currywurst with light and spicy meals that surpass your expectations. Popular spot Monsieur Vuong has an achingly small menu (enough to inspire panic when you're first seated) but fast service and knockout Vietnamese pho. Daily specials round out the offering. Local treasure Minh Quang is completely unassuming but inexpensive, fast and great food. Make sure you try the homemade lemonade.

Monsieur Vuong
Alte Schönhauser Straße 46
10119 Berlin-Mitte
+4930 9929 6924

Minh Quang
Greifswalder Straße 216
10405 Berlin
+49 30 44352062

5 Unexpected market shopping

The Mauerpark Flohmarkt —"Mauerpark" means "wallpark" and used to be an area enclosed by the Berlin Wall —sells antiques, records, homemade jewelry and more. Top it off with a nod to the city's Turkish population at the massive lunch counter serving eastern delicacies.

Walk to the market by starting at the corner of Bernauer Strasse and Gartenstrasse, and see sections of the wall and the memorial on the way.

Mauerpark Flohmarkt
mauerparkmarkt.de
Berlin Wall Memorial
Bernauer Straße 111
13355 Berlin-Mitte

3 LIFE

Travel in brief

Last minute booking? There's an app for that

For those times when you suddenly need a hotel room but have no idea where to book, a new mobile app that launched in Canada last Thursday promises to find the best deal for a last-minute stay. According to Sam Shank, there's a multi-billion-dollar business opportunity in offering cut-rate hotel rooms with mere hours to spare. The CEO of the mobile app HotelTonight, now available in Toronto and Vancouver, says there's big money in helping hotels clear out their inventory at the last minute. And he says needing a hotel room with no advance notice is a surprisingly common dilemma, especially among business travellers. "We're going after the spontaneous or last-minute need," says Shank, noting he doesn't recommend that thrifty travellers hold off on booking a hotel until the day of their trip. It's for "people who woke up in the morning and didn't realize they were going to need or want a hotel room. Starting at noon local time each day, users loading up HotelTonight's Apple or Android app can search for offers available that night, with the option of extending the reservation by an additional four nights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Website names top 50 people's choice restaurants in Canada

A wild time awaits in South Africa

Touring. The Travellin' Canadian mixes wine, cheetahs and an ostrich ride on this 12-day adventure

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN
Darren Parkman
travel@metronews.ca

The wilds of South Africa may not be as far off and inaccessible as you think, especially if you're willing to get down and dirty and rough it just a tad.

I admit, I'm no stranger to luxury hotels with mints on the pillow, but perhaps it was time to trade room service and pay per view movies for a tent in the middle of the plains.

And I'm all the better for it.

The aptly named "On the Go" tour company offers one adventurous, action-packed 12-day tour, that takes you out in the wild, and away from the comforts of all those boring five star hotels.

It may not be for the faint hearted, but for the more adventurous it's an unforgettable tour by tent.

I learned a lot from this experience ... for instance, who knew that wine went so well with cheetahs?

Not far from Capetown lies one of South Africa's oldest towns, Stellenbosch, a gorgeous growing region, rich with vineyards and award-winning vino.

Even cooler is the fact that nestled among this picturesque wine country is a sanctuary for one of Africa's deadliest predators, the cheetah.

Luckily these aren't the lightening fast zebra killing kind of cheetahs, but instead the friendly, almost lazy kind.

For a small price you can even pet these lounging cats.

They were so friendly it almost seemed like they'd been sampling the wine in the area.

Another highlight of this tour lies in another town with an impressive reputation.

Oudtshoorn has the distinction of being the ostrich capital of the world. Need I say more.

Here, you can actually pet, race and yes, even ride ... you guessed it, big ostriches!

Sadly, you must be under 140 pounds to mount these mammoth birds, so I had to be content to watch others enjoy the ride.

Luckily, none of the birds stuck their heads in the sand during the run.

Now that could have been painful.

Other highlights on this Garden Route tour include an option to dive with great white sharks, and a visit to Addo Elephant National Park.

With a base price under $900 for the 12-day tour, it's a good adventure for the money!

These cheetahs like lounging more than hunting. PHOTOS: DARREN PARKMAN

Other cool things to do...

- **Check out Capetown.** Kristenbosch Botanical Gardens, the famous Table Mountain and an impressive outdoor market are just a few of the must sees in this great city.
- **Visit the DeHoop Nature Reserve.** Home to the rare Cape Mountain Zebra.

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To register and for full contest details visit clubmetro.com.
As to Disney properties/artwork: ©Disney. As to Disney/Pixar properties/artwork: ©Disney/Pixar.

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Celebrate fresh & light flavours of spring with delicious roasted fare

Look for local lamb at the market or in stores now as spring is always a favourite time of year to cook it up. This recipe is perfect for a Sunday dinner to share with family and friends.

1. In a small bowl, stir together Dijon, rosemary, garlic and olive oil.

2. Place lamb in a roasting pan and rub marinade over entire surface of the lamb. Roast lamb in the centre of a 190 C (375 F) oven for 60 to 90 minutes or until internal temperature reaches 52 C (125 F) at the thickest point for medium rare. Roast longer for desired doneness. Let lamb rest for 30 minutes before slicing.

3. Walnut Salsa: Meanwhile, in a bowl, stir together chopped walnuts, parsley, mint, anchovies, capers, peppercorns, oil, lemon rind and juice until combined. Spoon over sliced lamb to serve.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WALNUTINFO.COM/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) Dijon mustard
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 1 kg (2 lb) boneless leg of lamb

Walnut Salsa:

- 250 ml (1 cup) chopped walnuts
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) each chopped fresh parsley and mint
- 6 anchovy fillets, minced
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) capers, rinsed and chopped
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) green peppercorns in brine, drained and minced
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) walnut oil
- 10 ml (2 tsp) grated lemon rind
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) lemon juice

Roasted Lamb

This recipe serves four to six people. THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

Drink of the Week

Chocolate Covered Pretzel

While little kids enjoy chocolate covered pretzels, this is the adult version of the timeless snack.

A mix of luscious Frangelico liqueur and whipped cream flavoured vodka, it's perfect as a sweet and salty shot.

Take the Chocolate Covered Pretzel shot by pouring salt on your hand followed by the drink.

1. Shake with ice, pour into a shot glass. Lick salt then take the Chocolate Covered Pretzel shot.

- 1 oz Frangelico
- 1 oz Pinnacle Whipped Vodka

SKYY SPIRITS

Roasted tomatoes employ just the right amount of nuts

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuts often get a bad rap because of their high fat content. But the fat in most nuts is the healthy unsaturated variety.

The trick is moderation. And because nuts are so rich, moderation can be easy. All that rich flavour means it doesn't take much to feel satisfied. Whether you prefer to incorporate them in a dish, sprinkle them on a salad, or snack them by the handful, they are a great choice for healthy eating.

Nuts generally have a deeper flavour when toasted. To toast raw nuts, place them on a dry baking sheet and roast for 10 to 12 minutes at 350 F. Keep a close eye on them because they go from toasted to burnt very quickly.

The freezer is the best place to store nuts. All their healthy oils put them at risk for going rancid. Place them in a zip-close plastic bag and squeeze out the air before freezing.

This recipe showcases walnuts in a composed salad of roasted tomatoes and creamy, herbed ricotta cheese. For a great dinner, serve this alongside a piece of crusty multigrain bread with some greens and a grilled chicken breast.

1. Heat the oven to 325 F. Place a wire rack over a rimmed baking sheet. Spray the rack with cooking spray.

2. Arrange the tomatoes on the rack, cut sides up. Sprinkle the tomatoes with the salt, sugar and white pepper. Roast for 1 hour. Flip the tomatoes over and roast for another hour, or until the tomatoes are soft, wrinkly and have shrunken considerably in size.

3. While the tomatoes are roasting, in a medium bowl stir together the ricotta, basil, thyme and oregano. Set aside to allow the flavours to meld.

4. Serve the herbed ricotta alongside the roasted tomato halves. Sprinkle with toasted walnuts and drizzle lightly with balsamic vinegar, if using.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients

- 4 large tomatoes, halved and cored
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground white pepper
- 1 cup low-fat ricotta cheese
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh oregano
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- Balsamic vinegar (optional)

Rosemary-Cider Brined Pork. Perfectly tender

1. In saucepan over medium heat, combine salt, sugar, cider, rosemary, thyme and chili powder. Stir until sugar and salt are dissolved. Let cool completely.

2. In resealable plastic bag, combine pork loin and brine solution. Squeeze out any air and seal bag shut. Place in a bowl. Refrigerate for 24 hours.

3. 30 mins. cooking, heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Place rack into roasting pan. Drain pork and discard brine solution. Rinse pork with cool water. Pat it dry with paper towels. Rub surface of pork with oil and place on the rack. Roast 45 mins. or until a thermometer reads 68 C (155 F) at the centre of the pork. Let rest before slicing. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS**

Ingredients

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) kosher salt
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) packed brown sugar
- 500 ml (2 cups) apple cider
- 1 bunch fresh rosemary
- 1 bunch fresh thyme
- 5 ml (1 tsp) chili powder
- 1 pork loin roast (1.8 kg/4 lb)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) canola oil

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The great skill switchover

You've got a lot to offer. How to sell your transferable part-time job skills for full-time employment

SASHA RANA
TalentEgg.ca

I've gone through the interview process countless times and I think the most important piece of advice I can offer is: sell your transferable skills.

After graduating from university or college, many of us do not have the experience we need to land our dream jobs. What we do have, however, is a slate full of entry-level positions which may include server, retail sales associate, fast-food worker, and many other so called "useless jobs."

However, one thing that many of us fail to recognize is that the skills you acquire in all of these jobs will help you become successful in your future career.

Your hospitality experience can 'serve' you well in the application process. ISTOCK

Imagine this scenario

Your interviewer on one side of the desk flipping through your resumé, saying, "So let's go through your past experiences and what you can bring to the table in this position…"

Meanwhile you're on the other side fretting, thinking to yourself, "How am I supposed to highlight my qualifications when I don't have any?" But you do!

Here are a few common jobs students hold, and how to identify transferable skills you can sell to any position:

Server

You're on your feet all day, remembering orders, juggling various tables. This translates to hard working and dedicated, quick learning and an ability to handle various tasks at once. Also constantly dealing with customers of all levels of difficulty builds character and resilience.

Retail sales associate

You deal with many aspects of daily sales operations from point of sale purchases and returns, to organizing merchandise, to assisting customers in finding suitable products. This translates to the ability to multi-task, you have organizational skills, not to mention always maintaining a positive attitude while helping customers choose that perfect item.

Fast-food worker

You work in a small area with a million operations going on at once. You have to ensure customer satisfaction, while working with a number of people in providing tasty food and drinks quickly. This translates to the ability to work in a fast-paced environment while accomplishing several tasks at once. This position also screams team work!

SASHA RANA IS AN HONOURS COMMERCE GRADUATE FROM MCMASTER UNIVERSITY, CURRENTLY WORKING AS AN ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES.

Student Voice

Turn one job into one million opportunities

Sally Gao
Graduate, Journalism
Ryerson University
TalentEgg.ca

I graduated from Ryerson University with a Bachelor of Journalism degree in spring 2010 with the hopes of finding a job in the media industry. I started looking for positions in my professional field in May and went through some interviews that didn't lead to anything.

I realized that the biggest obstacle hindering my prospects of finding a job was my experience. Even though I volunteered to write for my school outlets, such as The Eyeopener and McClung's Magazine, I didn't get enough training and exposure to the real world work environment.

Without wasting my time, I researched many companies online using Twitter, Facebook and even YouTube to gather insights on which industry I should tap into. I considered getting an education in public relations and communications but felt I needed some work experience before I decided if that's something I really wanted to get into.

Nonetheless, I finally got my first job at the end of 2010, where I was a Content Writer for a small online company. This job gave me the platform to try and learn new things, including SEO marketing, social media networking and branding. It opened my eyes to different career paths I could take and I became more confident in my job prospects as a growing journalist.

Where I am now

I recently went back to school to pursue a graduate certificate in Human Resources Management but dropped out of the program because I didn't feel I was ready to change careers just yet. I volunteered for different online magazines and networked with people in the writing and editing industry.

My recommendations for employers, schools and career centres

One thing I highly recommend for employers is to look beyond the education and look for any transferable skills a potential candidate may have. Many people who worked at different jobs have acquired multiple skill sets that can be used for another job they apply for. Just because they may not have the degree, training or education doesn't mean their experience doesn't allow them to learn those aspects. What matters is what results they can bring to the company and what value they have as an employee. It's important that prospective workers can apply their knowledge into the work they do, as well as have a solid academic foundation to back it up.

My recommendations for students

My advice for fellow students and recent grads is to keep trying and don't let the fear of getting rejected bring you down. If there's anything I've learned through my whole job hunting experience, it is to open your mind to different possibilities and never be afraid to think outside the box. You never know what you're capable of unless you try. And if you're not doing something you love right now, chances are the experience you've gained from it will go a long way when it comes to making connections and getting better opportunities down the road.

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Don't get trapped in one industry. Dig around outside of your degree type

ALANNA GLASS
TalentEgg.ca

Look a little closer. A career path you may have never considered could very well catch your eye. ISTOCK

Are you coming out of school with a degree and not sure where to go next to pursue a career?

A degree in accounting doesn't mean you need to join an accounting firm. A degree in computer science doesn't mean you need to work for a technology company.

Students are too often limiting themselves to a specific industry and not looking out for the multitude of opportunities available in other industries that are still suited to their training. Think outside the industry box.

"(Students) have their minds set on one specific industry, which can really limit their job opportunities," says Debbie Bottineau, Regional Vice-President of OfficeTeam. There are so many opportunities across a variety of industries that are neglected because people think the jobs don't exist.

She also suggests not limiting yourself by solely focusing on full-time positions. "A lot of employers are looking for hands-on work experience, so don't just focus on full-time opportunities. Look at temporary and contract positions as well."

So now that you're ready to start searching and you've reached a career site (like TalentEgg), where do you begin?

"I would say as a starting point, look broad from an industry perspective," says Bottineau. "You want to identify your transferable skills and tackle position types versus one specific industry."

ALANNA GLASS IS A MEDIA, INFORMATION AND TECHNOCULTURE (MIT) STUDENT AT WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

Use your imagination

Look at how the skills that you possess fit into the position to be filled

- It may be surprising to be a finance graduate on your way to working in agriculture, but the job requirements could directly relate to your abilities.

Workplace Law

Confusion around crossing the line

WORKPLACE LAW
Daniel Lublin
dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com
Twitter: @danlublin

In Canadian workplaces today, sexual harassment is defined by a thin yellow line.

Sexual innuendo that can easily be seen as harmless flirting to one employee, can just as easily be seen as an invitation for a lawsuit, to another.

As sexual harassment is often in the eyes of the beholder, when will an employee's inappropriate comments cost him his job?

Robert Gillam held an important job as a supervisor working on pipeline projects in Western Canada, for Waschuk Pipe Line Construction, a mainly male dominated workplace. Three females worked at the job site, and one of them just happened to be the daughter of the company's owner.

Gillam felt that the three female employees spent too much time socializing with the male employees and that they were responsible for work not getting done.

As a result, in conversations with other employees, he consistently referred to them in very derogatory terms, blaming them for a number of his problems.

When the women complained that the name calling amounted to harassment, Gillam was warned that his job was on the line. Although the issue improved for some time, it did not disappear entirely.

When the company's owner later learned that one of the female employees was considering suing the company, he decided that Gillam had to be fired without severance.

Gillam sued arguing that his conduct was not serious enough to justify his dismissal.

At a recent trial, Gillam's case was dismissed. According to the judge, it did not matter that Gillam did not make the derogatory statements directly to the female employees. Since they learned about his statements through others, it poisoned the workplace and qualified as sexual harassment nonetheless.

In the quest to define when an employee's inappropriate comments will amount to sexual harassment, there are some recurring themes:

* Whether there is a workplace harassment policy and whether its terms have been followed.

* Whether the employee was warned that the comments were offside. Here, Gillam was warned his behaviour could not be condoned, which contributed to the finding that his case should be dismissed.

* Whether the employee knew or ought to have known that the comments were unwelcome.

DANIEL A. LUBLIN IS A WORKPLACE LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN.

Twitter

@TalentEgg
Do you think your school/program prepared you to be able to find a job and work in the "real world"? Why or why not?

@natashakub
NOT AT ALL. NO HANDS ON TRAINING RELEVANT TO WORK FORCE. that's why we get out of uni & work-4free! #wompwompwomp

@LeeshaVee
No! Many BA programs desperately need co-op/internship opportunities so students can gain practical experience while in school!

@aanchal_:
YES my extra-curricular exp has taught me a LOT about what 2 expect in the "real world": time mgmt, ethics, politics

@JiggyJay
I think my program prepared me as I have only acquired a job in my field of expertise! Business Tech. Management!

@DanieTasha
yes & No, because I studied in the USA, I understand the "real world" there. Coming home everything is different from what I know

@M_Meek
I don't think the burden lies solely on the school. New grads who want a good job must be proactive and approach the school

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4 SPORTS

NHL

"Sidney Crosby needs to be in elite shape to perform at the level that he needs to perform at. I haven't talked to him, but I don't think he was feeling great. You can't miss that much time in a season, even Sidney Crosby."

Gary Roberts on Tuesday. The former NHLer, who played two seasons with Sidney Crosby in Pittsburgh, said the superstar probably suffered during the Penguins' first-round loss to the Philadelphia Flyers after coming back from a concussion. Roberts knows about comebacks. He retired at age 30 due to a serious neck injury. But he changed his lifestyle, started to train differently and returned to play a total of 21 seasons.

On the web

Highly touted Nationals slugger Bryce Harper was set to make his big-league home debut in Washington on Tuesday night as an injury fill-in. But Harper looks like he could be the rare 19-year-old who lands a full-time gig in the majors. Scan the code for the story.

NBA

Spurs' Popovich named top coach

Gregg Popovich was selected as the NBA's coach of the year on Tuesday after leading the San Antonio Spurs to 50 wins and the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference in the lockout-shortened season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Teams try on new looks for Year 100

CFL teams will be sporting a different look this season as part of the league's 100th anniversary celebration.

This week, eight teams are unveiling new re-engineered jerseys created by Reebok. The East Division squads donned their new uniforms Tuesday with the Western clubs unveiling theirs Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jeff Johnson tries on his new Argos jersey in Toronto on Tuesday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Bulls drop Game 2 without Rose

Jrue Holiday scored 26 points, Lou Williams added 20 and the Philadelphia 76ers beat Chicago 109-92 on Tuesday night to even their first-round series in the Bulls' first game without Derrick Rose. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

"You're still the best team in the NBA until an opponent proves otherwise."

Chicago Bulls great Scottie Pippen in an open letter to his former team on Tuesday. The Bulls lost superstar point guard Derrick Rose to a season-ending knee injury on Saturday.

Devils break through in 3rd

NHL. Floodgates open for New Jersey after peppering Flyers' Bryzgalov for 40 minutes

Zach Parise rushes over to congratulate Devils teammate David Clarkson who crashed the net to score the game-winning goal on Ilya Bryzgalov in Philadelphia Tuesday night. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Game 2

Devils	Flyers
4	1

Adam Larsson watched Game 1 from the press box, dressed sharply in a suit and tie. From the rafters, he sat helpless as he watched his New Jersey Devils lose a tough road opener in this Eastern Conference semifinal series against the Flyers in overtime.

In Game 2, though, he received his chance to shed the suit, and don a uniform.

And the 19-year-old rookie took full advantage.

Larsson scored the first post-season goal of his career off a wristshot in the third, igniting a four-goal explosion in the period, as the Devils rallied to a 4-1 win over Philadelphia on Tuesday night.

"I know how the playoffs (are)," Larsson said. "I watched all the games from the stands. I know that everybody steps up a little bit. I knew in my mind, if wanted to stay in the lineup, I had to step it up."

Larsson and Clarkson scored consecutive goals in the third period to rally the Devils past the Flyers and make up for the absence of Ilya Kovalchuk. The Devils played without their regular-season leading scorer because of a lower body injury.

Travis Zajac added a late goal to make it 3-1, and Bryce Salvador scored a late empty-netter for the Devils.

Game 3 is Thursday in Newark, N.J.

Matt Read scored 2:53 into the game to give the Flyers hope they could jump to a commanding series lead. Instead, the offence went into a funk and goalie Ilya Bryzgalov couldn't protect the advantage.

Even without Kovalchuk, the Devils did what they wanted against Bryzgalov, taking close shots and dominating the play in the Flyers' zone.

They just couldn't score — until the third.

Bryzgalov, who signed a $51 million, nine-year deal last summer, was especially stout in the second when he bailed out the Flyers' offence with a 12-save period. The Flyers went more than 18 minutes in the period before taking a shot on Martin Brodeur.

"I didn't sense frustration. We were comfortable with how we played the first two periods," Devils coach Peter DeBoer said. "And it was just a matter of keeping it going in the third. And the goals came."

Kovalchuk's injury opened a roster spot for Larsson, a rookie defenceman, to be activated. Larsson was a first-round pick last year and had two goals and 18 points in his first NHL season, but had not played a playoff game yet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

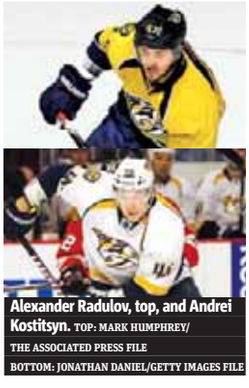
NHL. Predators pair to sit out for 'selfish' behaviour

The Nashville Predators already face a tough challenge returning home, down 0-2 to the Phoenix Coyotes in their Western Conference semi-final.

Now, they either have something to rally around with forwards Alexander Radulov and Andrei Kostitsyn suspended for Game 3 on Wednesday night or wind up with yet another excuse in this series.

The Predators announced the suspensions Tuesday morning, and general manager David Poile and coach Barry Trotz said the decision to punish the forwards for violating unspecified team rules was easy. The general manager is leaving the decision on whether the pair return for Game 4 on Friday night up to Trotz.

Poile refused to specify what Radulov and Kostitsyn did, saying any hint would give away what they did. He called their behaviour unfortunate and selfish. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Alexander Radulov, top, and Andrei Kostitsyn. TOP: MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE BOTTOM: JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES FILE

NBA

Stoudemire's rage proves costly to Knicks

Amare Stoudemire had a muscle in his left hand repaired Tuesday and will not play for the New York Knicks in Game 3 of their first-round playoff series against the Miami Heat on Thursday.

Stoudemire was badly cut when he punched the case surrounding a fire extinguisher after the Knicks' 104-94 loss in Miami.

Stoudemire apologized on his Twitter account for the act, which leaves the Knicks without another key player while already in a 2-0 series hole. Jeremy Lin is recovering from knee surgery and Iman Shumpert is out for the season after tearing a knee ligament in Game 1. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Pierce lifts Celtics back into series in Atlanta

Paul Pierce battled through another tough shooting night to score 36 points and the Boston Celtics wiped out Atlanta's 11-point lead in the second half even without Rajon Rondo, stunning the Hawks 87-80 on Tuesday in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The series is tied 1-1. Game 3 is Friday night in Boston, and Rondo will be back for the Celtics in that one, his short-handed team having claimed the home-court edge. The stellar point guard sat out a one-game suspension for bumping an official in the opener.

The Hawks appeared to be in control when they pushed out to a 65-54 lead late in the third quarter. But Boston sliced it to 66-61 by the end of the period, and Pierce led a dominating fourth. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul Pierce drops to one knee after Tuesday win over the Hawks. KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	16	8	.667	—
Baltimore	15	9	.625	1
New York	13	10	.565	2½
Toronto	**13**	**11**	**.542**	**3**
Boston	11	12	.478	4½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Cleveland	11	10	.524	—
Chicago	12	11	.522	—
Detroit	12	11	.522	—
Kansas City	6	16	.273	5½
Minnesota	6	16	.273	5½
WEST DIVISION				
Texas	17	7	.708	—
Oakland	12	13	.480	5½
Seattle	11	14	.440	6½
Los Angeles	8	15	.348	8½

Last night's results
Toronto 8 Texas 7
Baltimore 7 N.Y. Yankees 1
Oakland 5 Boston 3
Chicago White Sox 7 Cleveland 2
Tampa Bay 3 Seattle 1
Detroit 9 Kansas City 3
Minnesota at L.A. Angels
Monday's results
Texas 4 **Toronto 1**
Tampa Bay 3 Seattle 2 (12 inn.)
L.A. Angels 4 Minnesota 3
N.Y. Yankees 2 Baltimore 1
Boston 11 Oakland 6
Kansas City at Detroit, ppd., rain
Today's games
Texas (M.Harrison 3-1) at **Toronto (R.Romero 3-0)**, 12:37 p.m.
Kansas City (J.Sanchez 1-1) at Detroit (Verlander 2-1), 1:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Arrieta 1-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Nova 3-0), 7:05 p.m.
Oakland (McCarthy 1-3) at Boston (Bard 2-2), 7:10 p.m.
Seattle (Beavan 1-2) at Tampa Bay (Shields 4-0), 7:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Tomlin 1-2) at Chicago White Sox (Humber 1-1), 8:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Hendriks 0-1) at L.A. Angels (Weaver 3-0), 10:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	14	9	.609	—
Atlanta	14	10	.583	½
New York	13	11	.542	1½
Philadelphia	12	12	.500	2½
Miami	8	14	.364	5½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
St. Louis	15	8	.652	—
Cincinnati	11	11	.500	3½
Milwaukee	11	12	.478	4
Pittsburgh	10	13	.435	5
Houston	10	14	.417	5½
Chicago	8	15	.348	7
WEST DIVISION				
Los Angeles	17	7	.708	—
San Francisco	12	10	.545	4
Arizona	13	11	.542	4
Colorado	11	12	.478	5½
San Diego	7	17	.292	10

Last night's results
St. Louis 10 Pittsburgh 7
Arizona 5 Washington 1
Philadelphia 4 Atlanta 2
Houston 6 N.Y. Mets 3
L.A. Dodgers 7 Colorado 6
Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, ppd.
Milwaukee at San Diego
Miami at San Francisco
Monday's results
Houston 4 N.Y. Mets 3
Colorado 6 L.A. Dodgers 2
Philadelphia 6 Chicago Cubs 4
Arizona 9 Miami 5
Milwaukee 8 San Diego 3
Pittsburgh 9 Atlanta 3
Today's games
All times Eastern
N.Y. Mets (Schwinden 0-0) at Houston (W.Rodriguez 2-2), 2:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 2-0) at Colorado (Pomeranz 0-1), 3:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Gallardo 1-2) at San Diego (Luebke 3-1), 6:35 p.m.
Arizona (J.Saunders 2-1) at Washington (E.Jackson 1-1), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Maholm 2-2) at Cincinnati (Bailey 1-2), 7:10 p.m.
Philadelphia (Halladay 3-2) at Atlanta (Hanson 3-2), 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (A.J.Burnett 1-1) at St. Louis (Lynn 4-0), 8:15 p.m.
Miami (Zambrano 0-2) at San Francisco (Zito 1-0), 10:15 p.m.

BLUE JAYS 8, RANGERS 7

Texas	ab	r	h	bi	Toronto	ab	r	h	bi
Kinsler 2b	5	2	2	3	YEscor ss	4	0	1	1
Andrus ss	5	0	3	1	KJhnsn 2b	3	1	2	4
MYong dh	5	0	1	1	Bautist rf	3	1	1	1
N.Cruz rf	5	0	0	0	Lind 1b	4	0	0	0
DvMrp lf-cf	4	1	2	0	Encrnc dh	3	0	1	0
Napoli c	2	1	0	0	Thams lf	4	1	0	0
Torreal c	0	0	0	0	RDavis lf	0	0	0	0
Morlnd 1b	4	1	1	0	Lawrie 3b	4	2	2	1
AlGnzlz 3b	4	1	2	1	Rasms cf	1	1	0	0
Gentry cf	3	1	0	1	Mathis c	1	2	0	1
Beltre ph	1	0	0	0					
BSnydr lf	0	0	0	0					
Totals	**38**	**7**	**11**	**7**	**Totals**	**27**	**8**	**7**	**8**

Texas 050 100 001 —7
Toronto 004 000 301 —8
E—Napoli (2), Andrus (1), K.Johnson (4), Y.Escobar (4). DP—Texas 4, Toronto 1. LOB—Texas 6, Toronto 2. 2B—Kinsler (8). HR—K.Johnson (5), Bautista (4), Lawrie (3). SB—Gentry (3). S—Rasmus.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Texas						
Feliz	5	4	4	4	6	4
R.Ross H,1	1	1	3	0	0	0
Ogando BS,1-2	2	1	0	0	0	1
Adams L,0-1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Toronto						
Hutchison	6	7	6	5	2	5
Villanueva	1 2-3	1	0	0	0	0
Oliver H,4	1-3	0	0	0	0	0
Cordero W,1-1 BS,2-4	1	3	1	1	0	1

T—2:56. A—18,774 (49,260).

BLUE JAYS STATISTICS

BATTERS	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
Encarnacion	90	15	29	8	21	.322
Mathis	16	3	5	2	4	.313
Thames	65	8	20	2	3	.308
Lawrie	90	11	25	2	13	.278
Johnson	81	15	19	4	8	.235
Rasmus	82	9	19	3	11	.232
Francisco	13	1	3	0	0	.231
Escobar	102	12	22	1	7	.216
Lind	75	6	16	1	7	.213
Arencibia	64	4	12	1	10	.188
Davis	27	8	5	0	4	.185
Bautista	83	12	15	3	10	.181
Vizquel	11	1	1	0	0	.091

PITCHERS	W	L	SV	IP	SO	ERA
Oliver	0	1	0	7.2	9	2.35
Drabek	2	2	0	30.0	26	2.40
Perez	2	1	0	15.0	15	2.40
Morrow	2	1	0	32.2	21	3.03
Romero	3	0	0	34.0	23	3.18
Alvarez	1	2	0	32.1	9	3.62
Crawford	0	0	0	4.0	2	4.50

Last night's game not included

NHL PLAYOFFS

STANLEY CUP

CONFERENCE SEMI-FINALS

(Best-of-7 series)
All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE

N.Y. RANGERS (1) VS. WASHINGTON (7)
(Series tied 1-1)
Monday's result
Washington 3 N.Y. Rangers 2
Tonight's game
N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 12:30 p.m.
Monday, May 7
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 9
x-N.Y. Rangers at Washington, TBA
Saturday, May 12
x-Washington at N.Y. Rangers, TBA

PHILADELPHIA (5) VS. NEW JERSEY (6)
(Series tied 1-1)
Last night's result
New Jersey 4 Philadelphia 1
Tomorrow's game
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 8
New Jersey at Philadelphia, TBA
Thursday, May 10
x-Philadelphia at New Jersey, TBA
Saturday, May 12
x-New Jersey at Philadelphia, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE

ST. LOUIS (2) VS. LOS ANGELES (8)
(Los Angeles leads 2-0)
Monday's result
Los Angeles 5 St. Louis 2
Tomorrow's game
St. Louis at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
Sunday's game
St. Louis at Los Angeles, 3 p.m.
Tuesday, May 8
x-Los Angeles at St. Louis, TBA
Thursday, May 10
x-St. Louis at Los Angeles, TBA
Saturday, May 12
x-Los Angeles at St. Louis, TBA

PHOENIX (3) VS. NASHVILLE (4)
(Phoenix leads 2-0)
Tonight's game
Phoenix at Nashville, 9 p.m.
Friday's game
Phoenix at Nashville, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 7
x-Nashville at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
x — if necessary.

DEVILS 4, FLYERS 1

First Period
1. Philadelphia, Read 3 (Schenn, Simmonds) 2:53
Penalties — van Riemsdyk Pha (slashing) 4:22, Timonen Pha (hooking) 9:26, Gionta NJ (slashing) 14:18, Salvador NJ (interference) 20:00.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Briere Pha (holding) 12:49, Henrique NJ (slashing) 18:44.
Third Period
2. New Jersey, Larsson 1 (Zubrus, Harrold) 3:08
3. New Jersey, Clarkson 1 (Parise) 11:17
4. New Jersey, Zajac 5 (Gionta, Zubrus) 14:01
5. New Jersey, Salvador 1 (Henrique) 17:09 (en-sh)
Penalties — Zidlicky NJ (elbowing) 1:39, Hartnell Pha (holding stick) 1:52, Zubrus NJ (interference) 15:35, Clarkson NJ, Lilja Pha (roughing), Talbot Pha (misconduct) 19:44, Simmonds Pha (roughing, misconduct) 20:00.
Shots on goal

New Jersey	13	12	10	—35
Philadelphia	9	2	9	—20

Goal — New Jersey: Brodeur (W,5-3-0); Philadelphia: Bryzgalov (L,5-3-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — New Jersey: 0-4; Phil: 0-5.
Attendance — 20,131 (19,537) at Philadelphia.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	7	8	15
Briere, Pha	7	3	10
McDonald, StL	5	5	10
J.Staal, Pgh	6	3	9
D.Brown, LA	4	5	9
Voracek, Pha	2	7	9
Vermette, Phx	5	3	8
Zajac, NJ	5	3	8
B.Richards, NYR	4	4	8
Crosby, Pgh	3	5	8
Malkin, Pgh	3	5	8
Berglund, StL	3	4	7
Parise, NJ	3	4	7
B.Schenn, Pha	2	5	7
Clarkson, NJ	1	6	7
Jagr, Pha	1	6	7
Yandle, Phx	0	7	7
Bergenheim, Fla	3	3	6
Boedker, Phx	3	3	6
Kennedy, Pgh	3	3	6
Kopitar, LA	3	3	6
Kovalchuk, NJ	3	3	6
Ovechkin, Wash	3	3	6
Dupuis, Pgh	2	4	6
Hartnell, Pha	2	4	6
Klesla, Phx	2	4	6
Kunitz, Pgh	2	4	6
Neal, Pgh	2	4	6
Penner, LA	2	4	6
M.Richards, LA	2	4	6
Sullivan, Pgh	2	4	6
Whitney, Phx	2	4	6
Radulov, Nash	1	5	6
Stepan, NYR	1	5	6
J.Williams, LA	1	5	6
Peverley, Bos	3	2	5
Read, Pha	3	2	5
Spezza, Ott	3	2	5
Versteeg, Fla	3	2	5
Weiss, Fla	3	2	5
Goc, Fla	2	3	5
H.Sedin, Vcr	2	3	5
J.Thornton, SJ	2	3	5
Backstrom, Wash	1	4	5
Campbell, Fla	1	4	5
Carle, Pha	1	4	5
Gaborik, NYR	1	4	5
Laich, Wash	1	4	5
Letang, Pgh	1	4	5
Simmonds, Pha	1	4	5
Samuelsson, Fla	0	5	5
G.Bourque, Nash	3	1	4
Chimera, Wash	3	1	4

LACROSSE

NLL PLAYOFFS

DIVISION SEMI-FINALS

EAST
Friday's game
All times Eastern
Philadelphia at Rochester, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.

WEST
Saturday's game
Minnesota at Colorado, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 9 p.m.

DIVISION FINALS

EAST
Philadelphia-Rochester winner vs. Buffalo-Toronto winner, TBD

WEST
Minnesota-Colorado winner vs. Edmonton-Calgary winner, TBD

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE QUARTER-FINALS

(Best-of-7 series)
All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE

CHICAGO (1) VS. PHILADELPHIA (8)
(Series tied 1-1)
Last night's result
Philadelphia 109 Chicago 92
Friday's game
Chicago at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Sunday's game
Chicago at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Tuesday, May 8
Philadelphia at Chicago, TBA

MIAMI (2) VS. NEW YORK (7)
(Miami leads 2-0)
Monday's result
Miami 104 New York 94
Tomorrow's game
Miami at New York, 7 p.m.
Sunday's game
Miami at New York, 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 9
x-New York at Miami, TBA

INDIANA (3) VS. ORLANDO (6)
(Orlando leads 2-0)
Monday's result
Indiana 93 Orlando 78
Tonight's game
Indiana at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
Indiana at Orlando, 2 p.m.
Tuesday, May 8
x-Orlando at Indiana, TBA

BOSTON (4) VS. ATLANTA (5)
(Series tied 1-1)
Last night's result
Boston 87 Atlanta 80
Friday's game
Atlanta at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
Atlanta at Boston, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 8
Boston at Atlanta, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SAN ANTONIO (1) VS. UTAH (8)
(San Antonio leads 1-0)
Tonight's game
Utah at San Antonio, 7 p.m.
Saturday's game
San Antonio at Utah, 10 p.m.
Monday, May 7
San Antonio at Utah, TBA

OKLAHOMA CITY (2) VS. DALLAS (7)
(Oklahoma City leads 1-0)
Monday's result
Oklahoma City 102 Dallas 99
Tomorrow's game
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

L.A. LAKERS (3) VS. DENVER (6)
(L.A. Lakers lead 1-0)
Last night's result
Denver at L.A. Lakers
Friday's game
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 9:30 p.m.

MEMPHIS (4) VS. L.A. CLIPPERS (5)
(L.A. Clippers lead 1-0)
Tonight's game
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 9:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 4:30 p.m.
Monday, May 7
Memphis at L.A. Clippers, TBA
x — if necessary.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pt	GF	GA
Kansas City	7	1	0	21	12	3
D.C.	4	2	3	15	15	10
New York	4	3	1	13	18	14
Chicago	2	2	2	8	7	8
Houston	2	2	2	8	7	8
Montreal	2	5	2	8	9	15
Philadelphia	2	4	1	7	5	8
Columbus	2	4	1	7	6	10
New England	2	5	0	6	5	9
Toronto	0	7	0	0	6	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pt	GF	GA
San Jose	6	1	1	19	15	6
Salt Lake	6	3	1	19	16	11
Vancouver	4	2	2	14	7	6
Seattle	4	1	1	13	8	3
Colorado	4	4	0	12	12	10
Dallas	3	3	3	12	10	12
Los Angeles	3	3	1	10	11	11
Chivas USA	3	5	0	9	4	9
Portland	2	5	1	7	9	13

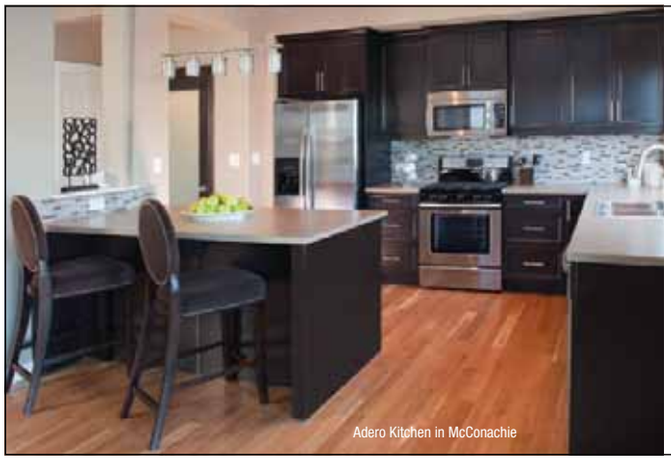
Note: 3 points for victory, 1 point for tie.
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Colorado at New England, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Seattle, 10 p.m.
D.C. at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Friday's game
Chicago at Chivas USA, 11 p.m.
Saturday's games
D.C. at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Seattle, 4:30 p.m.
San Jose at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
New England at Salt Lake, 8 p.m.
New York at Los Angeles, 8 p.m.
Montreal at Kansas City, 8:30 p.m.
Columbus at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
Colorado at Dallas, 7 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP

BMW OPEN

At Munich
Singles — First Round
Mikhail Youzhny (6), Russia, def. Philipp Petzschner, Germany, 7-5, 7-5.
Robert Farah, Colombia, def. Nikolay Davydenko (7), Russia, 6-3, 6-2.
Marcos Baghdatis (8), Cyprus, def. Tobias Kamke, Germany, 6-4, 6-3.
Dustin Brown, Germany, def. Daniel Brands, Germany, 6-4, 6-3.
Matthias Bachinger, Germany, def. Alejandro Falla, Colombia, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
Ernests Gulbis, Latvia, def. Xavier Malisse, Belgium, 6-4, 6-2.
Potito Starace, Italy, def. David Goffin, Belgium, 6-3, 7-6 (3).
Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine, def. Cedrik-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Tommy Haas, Germany, def. Michael Berrer, Germany, 6-0, 6-2.
Marinko Matosevic, Australia, Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhastan, 7-5, 6-1.
Doubles — First Round
Alejandro Falla and Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, def. Michal Mertinak, Slovakia, and Andre Sa, Brazil, 6-4, 7-6 (3).



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5 DRIVE

Top Gear

Go ahead, drop the gate

For the most part, pickup tailgates don't have it easy. Rarely, it seems, are they ever gently lowered. Instead they're usually just dropped open, placing considerable stress on the hinges and support cables. That problem is eliminated with the EZ-Down kit from Stabilus. The product consists of a damper that attaches to one side of the bed and connects to the tailgate using the supplied hardware. EZDown has been designed for most domestic and import pickups dating back to the late 1990s. Kits are priced at $70, including a two-year warranty. Check out the installation video at ezdown.com, while the purchasing process can be handled directly at ezdownstore.com.

WHEELBASE

On the Web

Scan code for more car reviews and news

Ford Fusion classes it up

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

The under-hood changes will really rock Fusion fans.

Plenty of engine options

The car joins the Hyundai Sonata and 2013 Chevrolet Malibu in abandoning its V6 option, but there are now no fewer than five distinctive engine picks, including two gasoline-electric hybrid systems, as well as front- and all-wheel-drive availability. Price-leading models get a 170-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine.

2013 Ford Fusion

- **Type.** Four-door, front-all-wheel-drive mid-size sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (170); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (179); 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (237); 2.0-litre I4 with electric motor (185 net).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $23,500 (est.).

Plenty of assistance

Ford is also introducing a full assortment of available communications and safety content, such as a keep-you-in-line lane-monitoring system, keep-your-distance adaptive cruise control, confidence-boosting parking spot assist, and a shoulder-check-replacing blind-spot system.

Fuel economy

The 179-horsepower 1.6-litre turbocharged "Ecoboost" engine earns a top rating of 9.0 l/100 km city and 6.4 highway, aided by technology that shuts off the engine when the vehicle is stopped, then instantaneously restarts it once the brake pedal is released.

Those are decent numbers, but the fuel-economy leaders are the two hybrid models.

Review. For 2013, there's a whole new bag of tricks, new looks and a plug-in hybrid model. Ford, you have our attention.

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

The next-generation Ford Fusion is more than a new mid-size sedan; it's really the marriage of high-fashion style with league-leading fuel economy. Oh, and some significant technological treats are also coming along for the ride.

The Fusion's latest powertrain array borders on overwhelming, seemingly geared for a world where gasoline prices threaten to reach stratospheric levels.

But if content is king, then the other half of this royal equation is the king's new apparel. The Fusion's January launch at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Mich., caused palpable buzz amongst the assembled media. The dramatic sweep of the roofline suggests kinship with the Audi A7, Volkswagen CC and CLS-class Mercedes-Benz, while the open-mouth grille veers 180-degrees from the current triple-bar fixture. Simply put, the Fusion will possibly be the classiest-looking mid-size sedan on the road when it goes on sale in the third quarter of 2012.

The Fusion's high fashion extends to the cabin where passengers are greeted with fancier trim, comfier seats and a freshly pressed control panel. Ford says that passenger space has increased by relocating the dashboard closer to the windshield.

With near-revolutionary improvements in looks and content, Ford appears determined to become the leading innovator within the mid-size sedan pack and at the same time improve its standing in that ultra-competitive segment.

Top Gear

A shift in coat hooks

Nothing is too outlandish for home or garage decor when it comes to making a true automotive aficionado happy. That's why this coat rack makes the perfect gift for that special someone who has motor oil running through his or her veins. The aluminum and chrome-plated coat rack features five different shifters that are ideal for hanging up coats, hats, etc., although it's such a cool conversation piece, you might not allow anyone to use it for its intended purpose. The rack measures about a metre long by 22 centimetres, sells for about $40 US and can be sourced on line at classiccarrestorationparts.com, or overstock.com.

Top Gear

Sounds good to me

If you're building your dream hot rod or restoring an older-model car, you'll likely want to upgrade the sound system, yet retain that original look. Retro Manufacturing carries a wide variety of Retro Sound classic-styled radios designed to fit just about any make or model. The company will sell you just the basic version or equip you with one that includes a remote control plus Apple iPod connectivity. This version will also allow you to play tunes from your USB devices. All versions feature chromed knobs and face plates for an authentic look, along with a modern LCD display for the tuner. Prices begin in the $280 US range (plus speakers). Check them out at retrosoundusa.com. **WHEELBASE**

Biking season is here – amen to that

Over 1,100 motorcyclists participate in the seventh annual Blessing of the Bikes, presented by North Shore Church on Sunday at Gibraltar Trade Center in Mt. Clemens, Mich. DETROIT NEWS, ELIZABETH CONLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tire treads advance with virtual velocity

Driving Force. The road that tires must travel before getting on your car runs through a computer

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

The tread on your tires may look random, but it's actually a very specialized design. The grooves and blocks can affect how the tire channels water, how it grips on ice and even how loud or quiet it is.

In the 1900s, tire designers drew patterns with pencil and paper, says Neal Sehm, manager of mold design for Bridgestone Americas in Akron, Ohio.

"That didn't change much until about the 1970s, with the advent of CAD (computer-aided design)," he says.

"Instead of drawing boards, you used a computer to draw what you used to do by hand. It did minimal computations. It just gave you a different tool to do your sketching."

The flat design had to be transformed into 3D, and in the earlier days, this meant hand-carving the pattern into a plaster mold. The next development was computer-aided manufacturing. The design would be programmed into a machine that produced an exact 3D replica with a computer-guided cutting head.

A research tire tread made by a computerized plastic printer.

Today, computers can render perfect virtual versions.

"It's actually created in 3D space in the computer," Sehm says. "Drawings are no longer required to design, manufacture or even validate something that you make. We're looking at 3D pictures on the computer, and all the characteristics that you build into that picture are the same characteristics that you want on a tire."

Still, while the computer screen is showing a perfect three-dimensional rendition of a tire, "a lot of people have problems visualizing in 3D space," Sehm says.

An actual rendition of the design is still created, but today, it's likely to be made on a 3D printer. These machines use print heads just as your computer printer does, but instead of ink, they deposit layers of material — plastics, polymer or ceramics — and slowly build up the finished product.

This gives designers the ability to examine the 3D design and determine if they've achieved their goals.

Once the design is good to go, it's off to the next stage of production.

"The big thing is time," Sehm says.

"The bottom line is that when we get done with this, we have a design that we take to market."

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The Porsche Cayenne S Hybrid.

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Tempering spring optimism

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Spring is not kind to everyone. Just ask these Toronto Maple Leaf fans. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some wise person once said, "No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."

The sentiment assumes spring rules and winter drools.

Not saying the assumption is wrong, just that it could be more nuanced. There are dark sides to everything, even to some of the wonderful things wrought by spring.

Pollen, for instance, eventually brings a glorious greening to trees and their ilk, but not before it sneaks en masse into various entry points in my head, and does an Occupy Wall Street in my sinus cavities.

There is also a dark side to the optimism generally associated with spring renewal. While it's possible for everyone to be optimistic, it's not possible for everyone to be on the winning side of whatever they are optimistic about. Just ask Canadian hockey fans. The puck hit the fan so to speak, at every Canadian NHL franchise this spring. And just to mangle that metaphor a bit more, that puck not only got chewed up in the fan, it ultimately killed the fan too, but not before the dying fan spit the puck back and right into the new flat screen TV, which also died an untimely death. Basically, spring equals death.

I'm only in this mood because one my favourite spring car rituals didn't turn out too well this past weekend.

I always look forward to firing up my old Jaguar every spring, after its long winter slumber. It's always great to once again breathe in its intoxicating mixture of gas, old leather, and oily metal, reacquaint myself with its lovely sheet metal, and hear the engine cough and spurt before smoothing out to a satisfying low and even rumble.

This year there was a large puddle of brake fluid under the Jaguar. Usually there is some, but this was over the top. No brakes.

Oh well, I'll start the engine at least. It fired right up. I tilted the "bonnet" forward to examine the engine while it warmed up. As soon as I did that I could smell raw gas, and then could see gas pouring out of the front carburettor. A stuck float probably. The usual remedy, hitting the bottom of the float bowl gently but firmly with a rubber hammer, didn't work. So then I tried hitting my head with the rubber hammer. That didn't work either.

I shut the engine off.

Instead of that first great drive of the season, I had one big mess to clean up, and two mechanical problems to sort out. And I just spent the first part of the day doing income tax returns.

A lot or renewal happens in the spring, but old cars just get older.

I cleaned up the mess the best I could, put the cover back on the car, and went back in the house. Got a beer and watched the end of the Blue Jays game, which just happens to be another spring ritual of mine from time to time, and a much more dependable one too.

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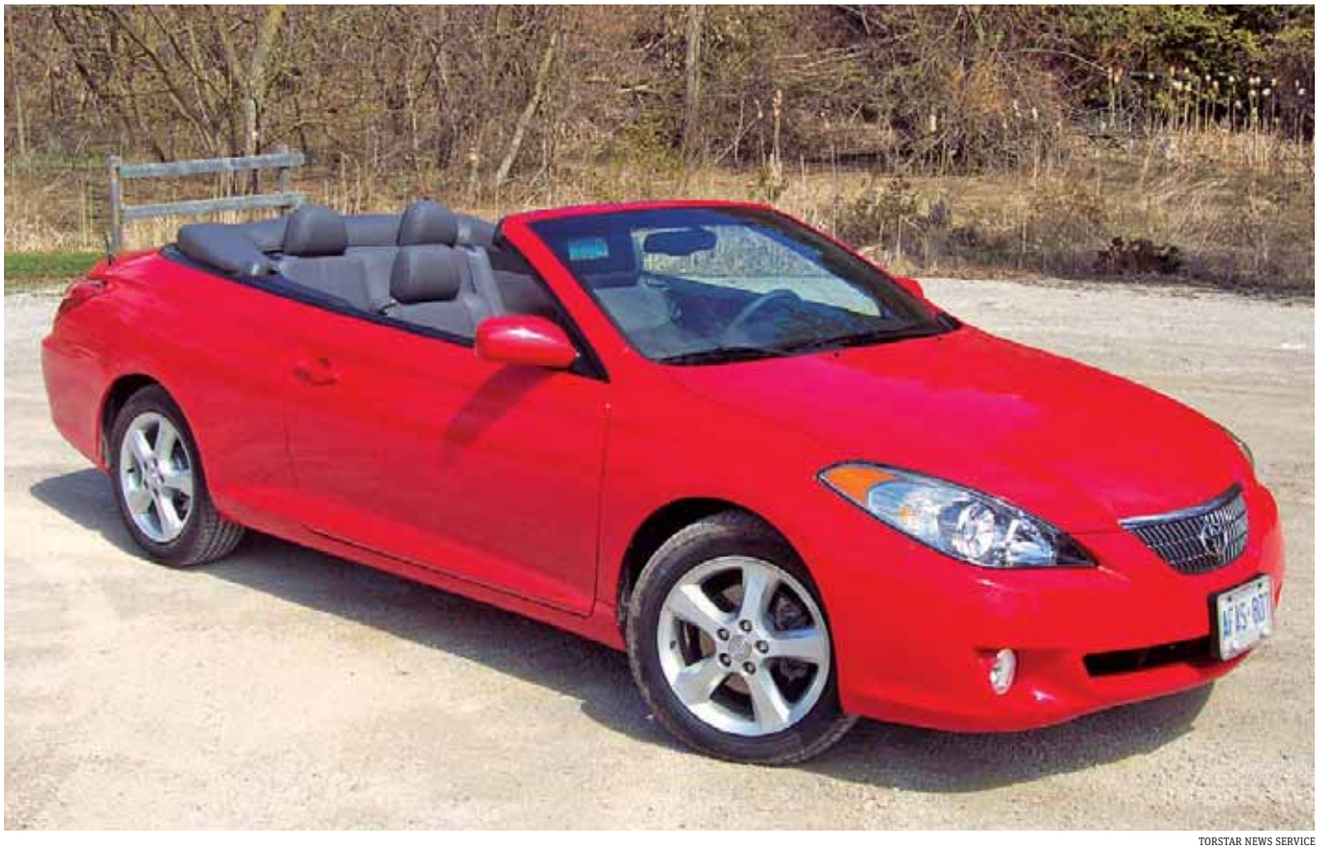
This Camry can help you soak up the sun

Second Gear.
2004 to 2008
Toyota Solara

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

With an attempt at injecting some fun and excitement into the Toyota Camry lineup, the Toyota Camry Solara (Toyota Solara for short) turned the automaker's reliable and well-loved Camry into a two-door coupe or convertible. Intended for shoppers after a more personal motoring experience, the second-generation Solara debuted as a 2004 model, and has now transitioned into used-car territory.



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Common issues

Checking out a Solara Convertible? Inspect the roof mechanism thoroughly. Rips, tears, abrasions and duct-tape patches are all bad signs. Inspect the area where the roof stores for signs of rust, mildew or moisture, which could indicate a leak.

Soak the car aggressively in a coin-operated spray-and-wash to inspect for leaks. Some owners have reported leaks through the convertible top, as well as a tendency for water collected on the roof to drip into the cabin when the doors are opened.

Lumpy or sporadic acceleration may be the result of a bad engine sensor, and any hard shifting from the transmission is likely a computer-related issue that requires reprogramming of the gearbox's electronic 'brain.'

Engine

Look for four or six-cylinder power with output between approximately 160 and 230 horsepower, respectively, and automatic transmissions all around. All models were front-wheel drive.

What owners like

Most Solara owners rave about relatively generous trunk space, sharp looks, good gas mileage and an easy-to-use convertible top.

A smooth ride, spoiling looks and a comfortable interior round out the package.

What owners dislike

Most owners say the Solara is more set up for touring than sportiness — and that handling is less than inspiring.

A few owners also report squeaks and rattles as the car ages.

Verdict

A well-maintained Solara should prove to be a sensible, relatively spacious and easy-to-live-with machine.

Note that the lighter and less complicated coupe model should offer up better handling and a quieter ride, if you're not dead set on a drop-top.

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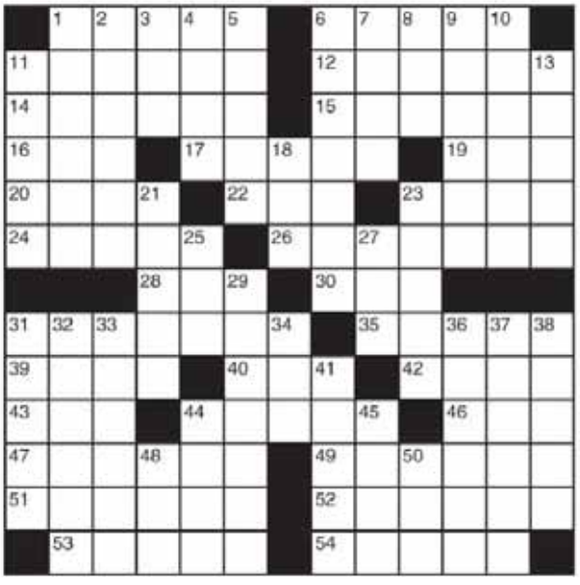
Crossword

Across

1 Serf
6 Actor Fernando
11 Appetizer
12 Inventor — Graves Otis
14 Wastes no time
15 Spurts forth
16 New Haven collegian
17 Assertion
19 "Go, team!"
20 Cribbage gizmos
22 Diplomatic agt.
23 Bear lair
24 Bert's pal
26 Egg white
28 Apply Brylcreem
30 Mess up
31 Relax briefly
35 "Hi" in Hilo
39 Writer Kingsley
40 Bumped into
42 Eventual statue
43 Android, for short
44 Give private lessons
46 Parched
47 No teetotalers
49 Advertises
51 "Sing some more!"
52 Construction pieces
53 Dilutes
54 Small change

Down

1 Van
2 Pulver's rank
3 — -di-dah
4 Cartel acronym
5 Induction motor pioneer
6 Easy to read
7 Grad
8 "— for the million ..."
9 Religious retreat
10 Make a bundle
11 Thin pancake
13 Wan
18 "I — Rock"
21 Factions
23 Ringlets
25 Corrode
27 Monokini's lack
29 Puzzles
31 Dinette necessity
32 Quantity
33 Tackiness
34 Bottom line
36 Trite
37 Seraglios
38 Big pit
41 Subject
44 Gull's cousin
45 Hayseed
48 — polloi
50 D.C. title



Sudoku

	9						3	
		8				6		
3	6		7	9	2		8	1
	1		2		7		6	
6								5
	5		9		4		7	
2	3		8	4	5		1	6
		6				4		
	8						9	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	4	7	3	5	9	2	1
2	9	5	4	6	1	3	8	7
7	1	3	2	8	9	6	4	5
6	7	2	3	9	8	5	1	4
1	4	8	5	7	6	2	9	3
5	3	9	1	4	2	8	7	6
4	5	1	9	2	3	7	6	8
3	2	6	8	1	7	4	5	9
9	8	7	6	5	4	1	3	2

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

AV W BYPRKL AR HWS EKK VKLC KV VPANWEYR WLC CYREPKSYPR, RKFY FANXE RWS AE'R HWPRXAB HKPRXAB.

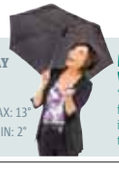
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT A PERSON CALL FOLKS WHO ARE SMOOTHING DOWN PIECES OF CORN? KERNEL SANDERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: 12° MIN: 4°	MAX: 12° MIN: 3°	MAX: 13° MIN: 2°



BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

MICHELE MCDOUGALL WEATHER SPECIALIST

"My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes". **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20. Wherever you go and whatever you do today, don't be tempted to take your work with you. It will still be there for you later.

♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You will be romantic today. Surprise the object of your affection with a gift you know will be appreciated.

♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20. A few kind words from you could make all the difference to someone today. It's time to kiss and make up.

♋ Cancer | June 21 - July 22. The facts and figures may be on your side but that does not necessarily mean you are going to win the argument.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Someone you find attractive could have a negative affect on your money situation today. Don't fall for the charm of a pretty face.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Anything routine or predictable will turn you off. Put chores and duties off until another day.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Is a friend really loyal to you, or is it just an act to get what they want? According to the planets it may be the latter, so be on your guard.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Someone you usually find it quite hard to get along with is trying to be nice to you. End the hostility.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You enjoy surprises. That's good, as there will be a flood of them coming your way over the next 24 hours.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. It's not often you get caught up with a new fad or fashion but something has seized hold of your imagination and won't let go. Enjoy it.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You know when to make a noise about things you don't agree with, and you know this is not the right time to make critical remarks.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. A friend will confide in you. You may be shocked by their confession. Offer practical advice. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"Rapunzel has already been saved, people!"
Keddy

HASAN JAMALI-BARBAR/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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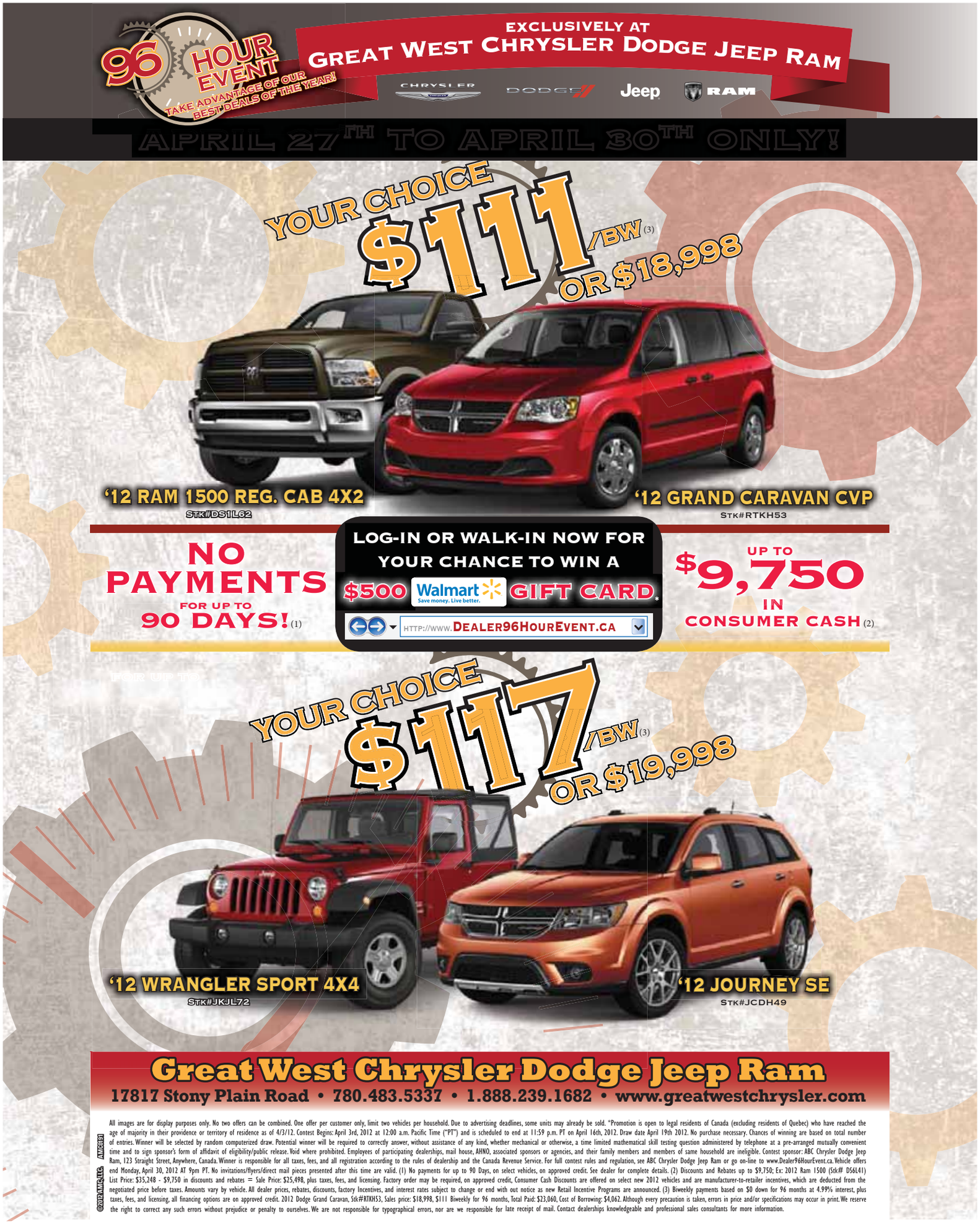
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#EN3169
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$11,860

Shawn Alexander

Mike Redmond

2011 NISSAN ROGUE SL AWD
#EN3161
$24,240

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#2T43410C
$31,860

2008 GMC 1500 REG CAB 4X4
#EN31472GH0063A
$17,860

2003 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LTD
#2R12958A
$15,860

2007 FORD TAURUS SE SEDAN
#2GC0297A
$5,860

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#EN3134
$21,860

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#2AV2599A
$16,860

2009 MITSUBISHI GALANT ES (LOADED)
#2R16728A
$14,340

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#P3143
$25,640

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#2R35302A
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#2R12720A
$28,640

Barry Frauenfeld

Mark Reimann

George Lakusta

Eddie Yehia

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#2R11512A, LOW KMS.
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2012 KIA SORENTO LX AWD V6
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$30,860

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$39,640

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#2GC0212A, LOADED.
$46,860

2009 LINCOLM MKX LIMITED (LOADED)
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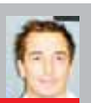
$31,860

Shane Hughes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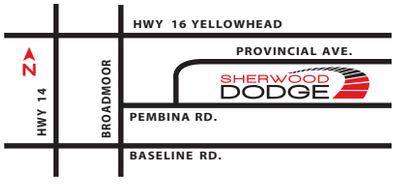

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